a Silent Voice

3

yoshitoki oima

a Silent Voice

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WHOA, SHOYA!
I SEE YOU FINALLY GOT A CELL PHONE, HUH?
YEAH. LUCKILY, MOM BOUGHT ME ONE.
I'LL ENTER MY E-MAIL ADDRESS RIGHT NOW!
LET'S SEE... BIG_FRIEND_NAGATSUKA@...
ONLY THREE CONTACTS ON YOUR LIST, HUH? WHAT A LONELY FELLOW YOU ARE...
I'LL ADD YUZURU'S ADDRESS WHILE I'M AT IT...
WHEN DID THEY EXCHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION?
OH, LOOK AT THE TIME. I GOTTA GET GOING.
...GOING? WHERE?

CHAPTER 15: BETTER NEWS

...TO SEE NISHIMIYA!
I'VE GOTTA GET THIS UMBRELLA BACK TO HER.
MY, AREN'T WE FORWARD? WOOOO!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, IDIOT!
SHRP

HERE'S, UH...YOUR UMBRELLA BACK...
I BORROWED IT FROM YOUR MOM...
?
OH... I, UH... RAN INTO HER AT THE... SUPERMARKET? THE OTHER DAY...?

SHO! AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK FOR HER E-MAIL AND STUFF?
!
...
B-BY THE WAY, NISHIMIYA...
DO YOU, USE, LIKE, E-MAIL AND STUFF?
NN.
OH, SO YOU TEXT WITH YOUR FRIENDS?
YOU MEAN THE ONES FROM YOUR CURRENT SCHOOL?
NN.
TOSS
W-WOW, THAT SOUNDS GREAT... BY THE WAY...
YOU PROBABLY DON'T, LIKE... WANT TO TEXT WITH ANYONE FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... DO YOU?
LIKE ME, FOR INSTANCE.
...

NN.
OH, REALLY?! THEN, UH, ANY E-MAIL ADDRESSES YOU NEED?
BY WHICH I MEAN MINE!!
SA
HA
RA
?
SAHARA?
YOU WANT TO KNOW MIYOKO'S ADDRESS?
...
OH...
SORRY, I DON'T KNOW HERS...

MIYOKO SAHARA.
SHE DIDN'T REALLY STAND OUT MUCH.
SHORTLY AFTER SHE BECAME FRIENDS WITH NISHIMIYA...
HYPO-CRITE.
...SHE STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL.
I ASKED NISHIMIYA...
ARE YOU WORRIED...
...ABOUT MIYOKO FOR SOME REASON?

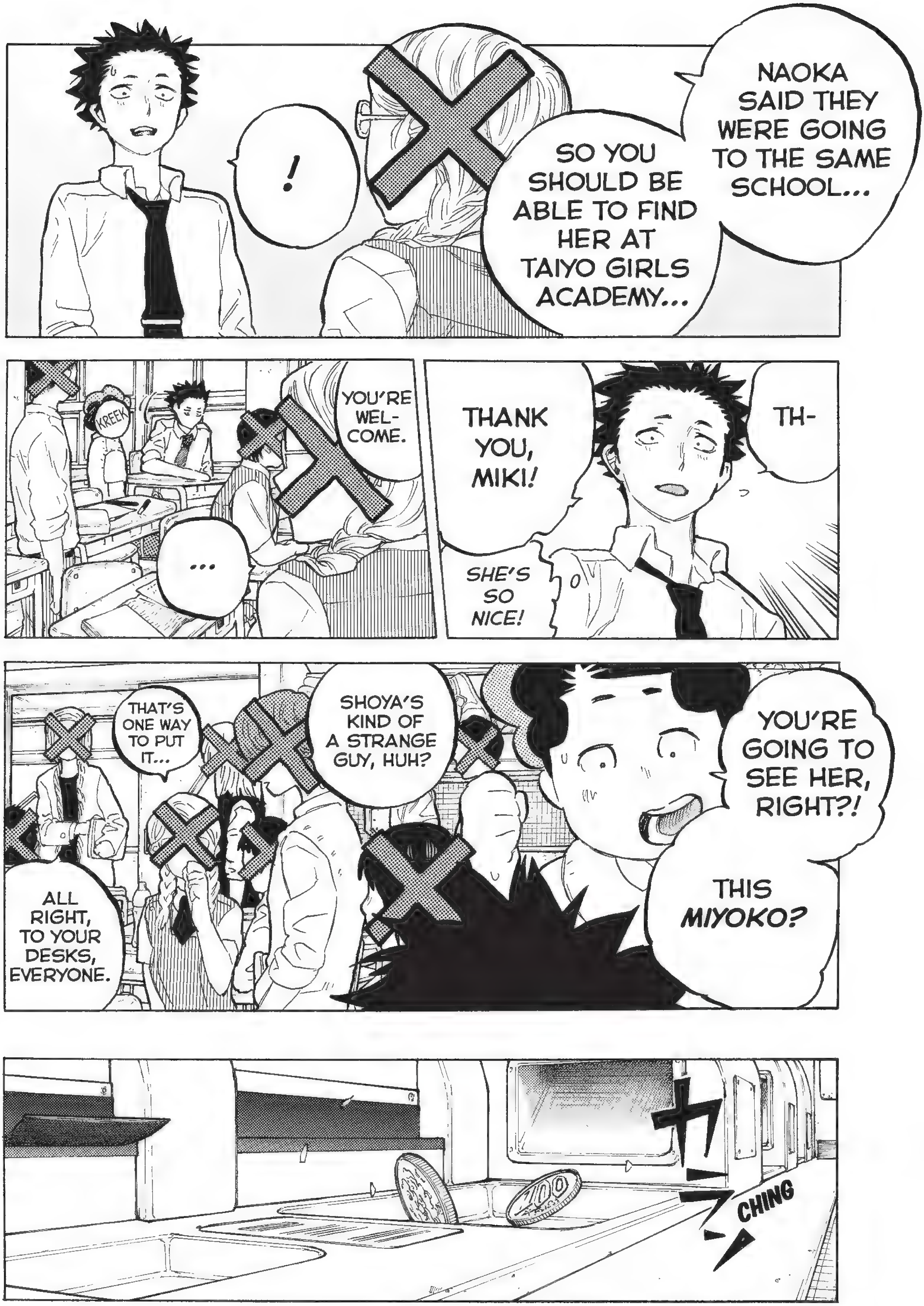
"SHE WAS HURT...
...BECAUSE OF ME."
I WAS ASHAMED OF MYSELF.
EVEN AS A KID, NISHIMIYA KNEW...
SHE KNEW FULL WELL THAT MIYOKO STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF HER.
AND WITHOUT REALIZING THAT...
...WITHOUT EVEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO FIND OUT...
I JUST... ASSUMED NISHIMIYA WAS SOME CLUELESS IDIOT. I WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE SIXTH GRADE AND PUNCH MYSELF.

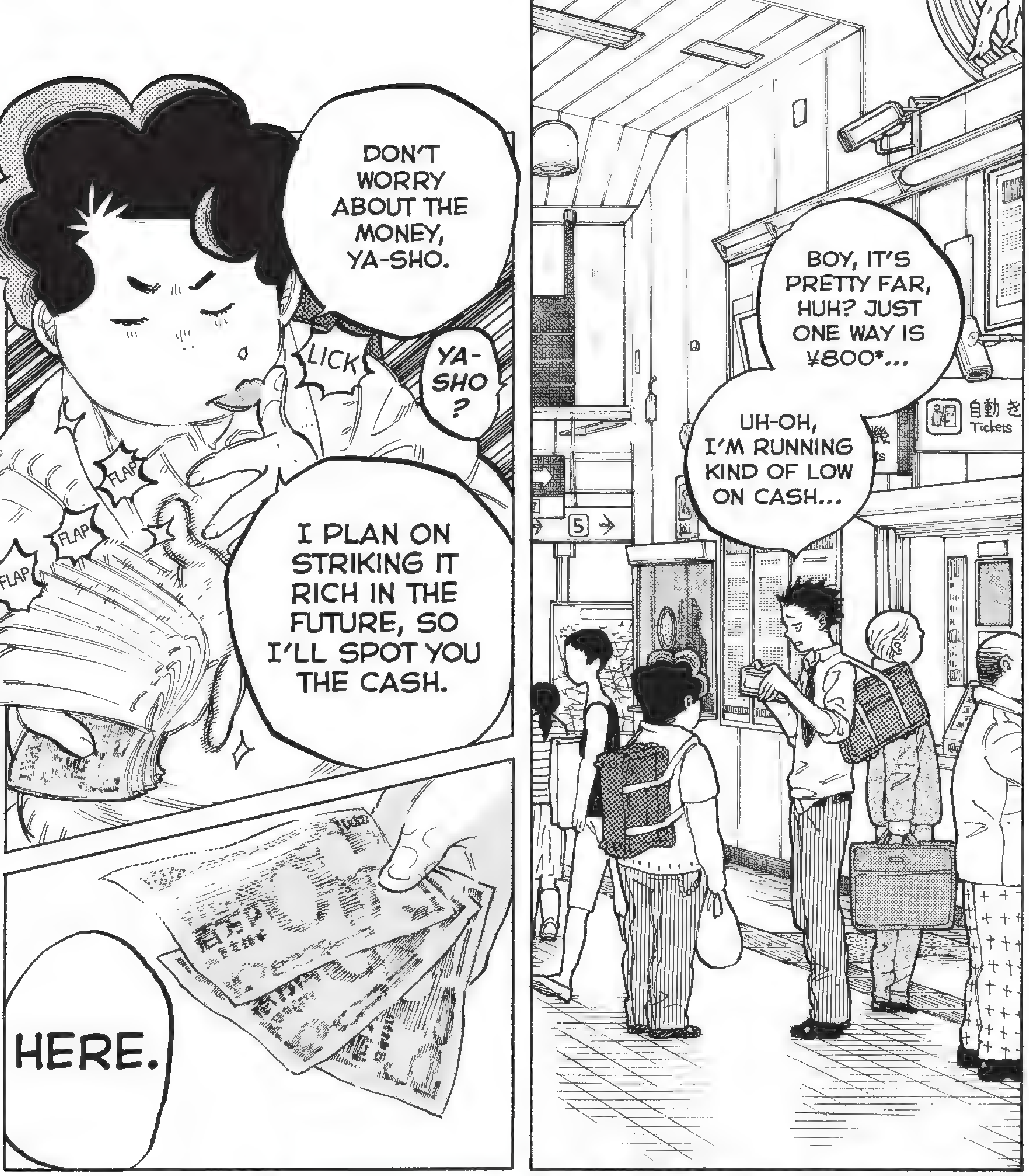
MORNING.
...
I HATE THESE MAKE-UP EXAMS.
TOMOHIRO'S NOT HERE YET?
GOOD MORNING.
KREEK
HEY, ISHIDA'S HERE.
"HE ACTUALLY CAME TO SCHOOL."
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
"I'M AMAZED HE CAN SHOW HIS FACE."
"ISN'T HE ASHAMED?"
...
HEY, ISHIDA.
TELL ME WHAT THAT ARTICLE WAS ABOUT.
I REALLY WANNA KNOW.
OH... SURE...
HEY, DON'T TEASE MY FRIEND!!
WOOSH

LISTEN, YOU! SHOYA JUMPED INTO THE RIVER TO SAVE A DROWNING KITTEN!!
TOMO-HIRO!
SO STOP MAKING FUN OF HIM!!!
SHOYA IS A GOOD GUY!!
THANKS, TOMOHIRO...
BUT I DIDN'T SAVE ANY CATS...
WHAT? SO THAT WAS JUST ANOTHER OF NAGATSUKA'S LIES?
SIGH
はは
HAHA
STAY OUT OF THIS! LEAVE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS TO ME!!
WHAT DO I NEED... PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR?
YOU'RE ALL BLOWING THIS WAY OUT OF PROPORTION.

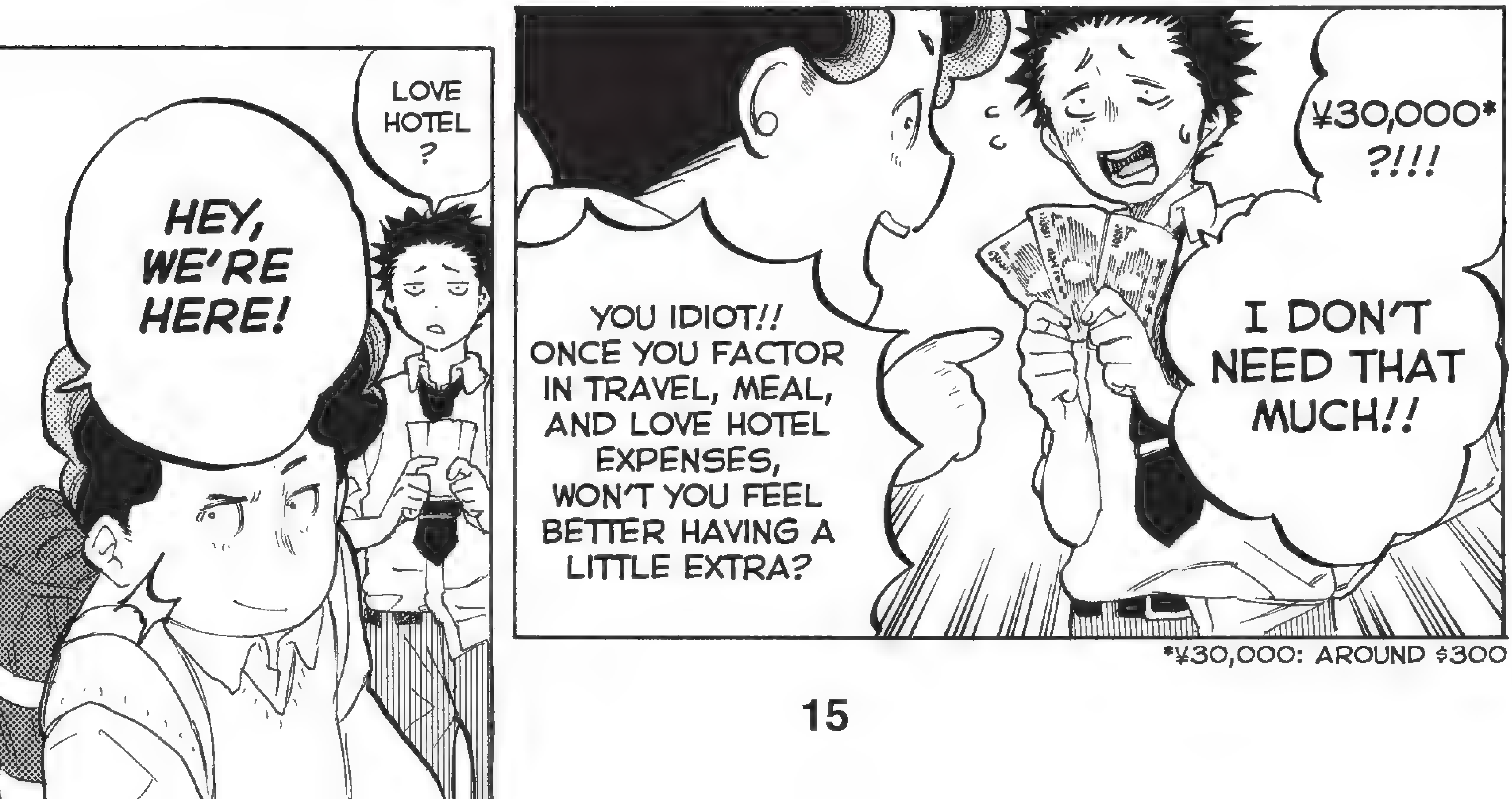
SHOYA HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
HUH. SO YOU KNOW SHOYA PRETTY WELL, MIKI?
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.
WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
MIKI...
...
THUNK
SHOYA?

WH... WHAT IS IT?
I'M SORRY. DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
OH, NO. NOTHING LIKE THAT...
I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU...
DO YOU KNOW HOW I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH MIYOKO FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
MIYOKO?
...SORRY, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH THAT...
OH, BUT...


NAOKA SAID THEY WERE GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL...
SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HER AT TAIYO GIRLS ACADEMY...
!
TH-
THANK YOU, MIKI!
SHE'S SO NICE!
YOU'RE WEL-COME.
KREEK
...
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE HER, RIGHT?!
THIS *MIYOKO?*
SHOYA'S KIND OF A STRANGE GUY, HUH?
THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT...
ALL RIGHT, TO YOUR DESKS, EVERYONE.
CHING
100


BOY, IT'S PRETTY FAR, HUH? JUST ONE WAY IS ¥800*...
UH-OH, I'M RUNNING KIND OF LOW ON CASH...
自動き
Tickets
5
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY, YA-SHO.
LICK
YA-SHO?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
I PLAN ON STRIKING IT RICH IN THE FUTURE, SO I'LL SPOT YOU THE CASH.
HERE.

*¥800: AROUND $8.00


¥30,000* ?!!!
I DON'T NEED THAT MUCH!!
YOU IDIOT!! ONCE YOU FACTOR IN TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LOVE HOTEL EXPENSES, WON'T YOU FEEL BETTER HAVING A LITTLE EXTRA?
LOVE HOTEL?
HEY, WE'RE HERE!

*¥30,000: AROUND $300

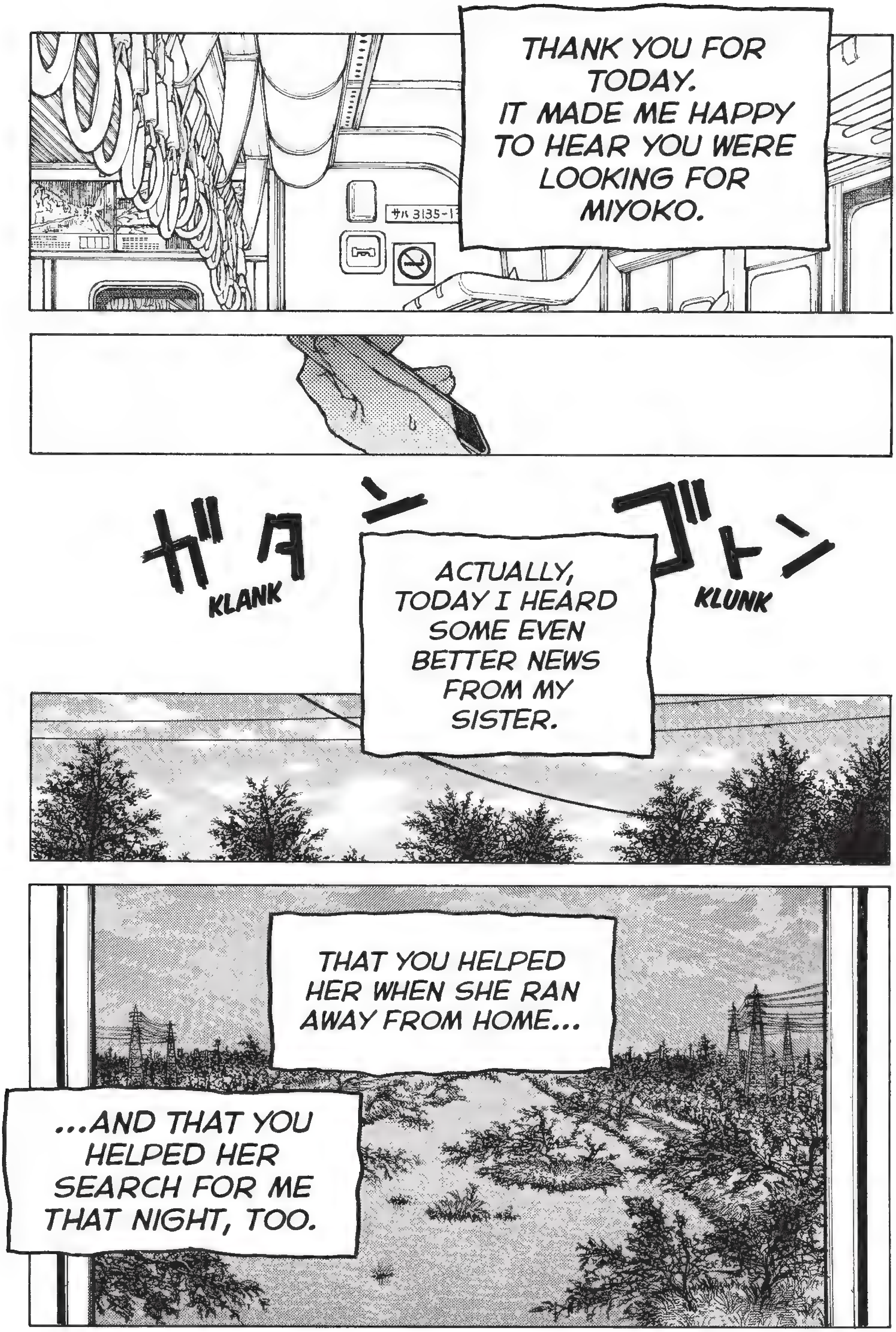
WAIT, DID YOU CALL *THEM?*
SURE I DID.
SIS SAYS SHE'S PISSED YOU WERE GONNA LEAVE HER BEHIND WHEN THIS IS ABOUT HER.
TAKE HER WITH YOU, SHOYA.
BYE-BYE!
BOW

OBVIOUSLY, SCHOOL'S OVER NOW, SO CHANCES ARE PRETTY HIGH MIYOKO WON'T EVEN BE THERE. DO YOU STILL WANT TO GO?
NN.
SEE YA, NISHIMIYA.
HUH?! YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US?!
BOW
...
WE'RE GONNA BE ALONE THE WHOLE WAY THERE?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW EMBARRASSING THAT IS?!

ガタン
KLANK
ゴトン
KLUNK
ガタン
KLANK
ゴトン
KLUNK

GLANCE
GLANCE
...
SKRITCH SKRITCH
...
OH MAN, LOOK AT THAT BILLBOARD...
MUTTER
YAWN
ZZZZZ ZZZZZ

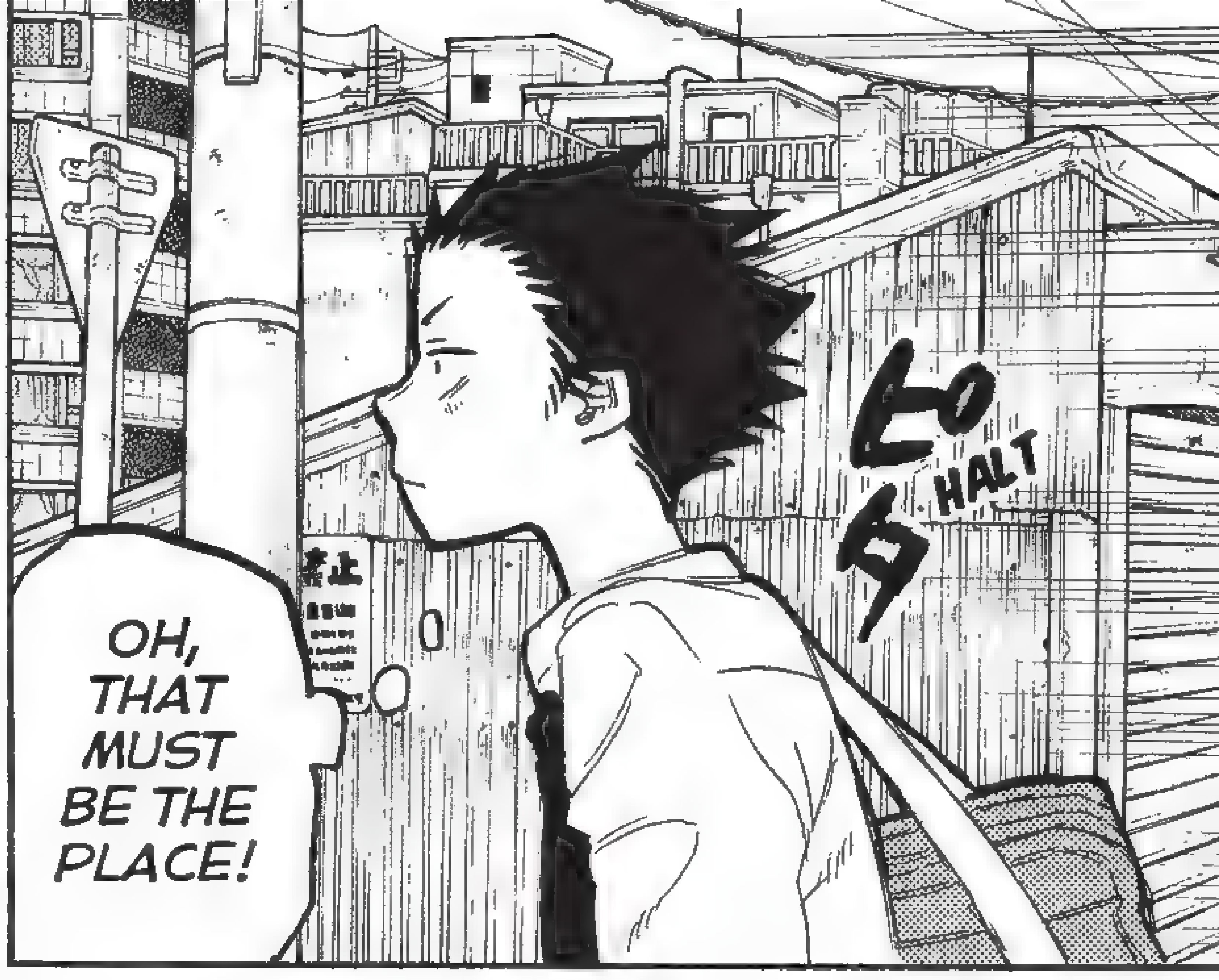
OH... A TEXT? FROM TOMOHIRO?
NO, WAIT. WHOSE ADDRESS IS THIS?
nichinichisou0607@mokomo.ne.jp
つかれましたか？
今日はありがとう。
nichinichisou060
Are you tired?
Thank you for today
made me happy
were lo
Actu
...
?!

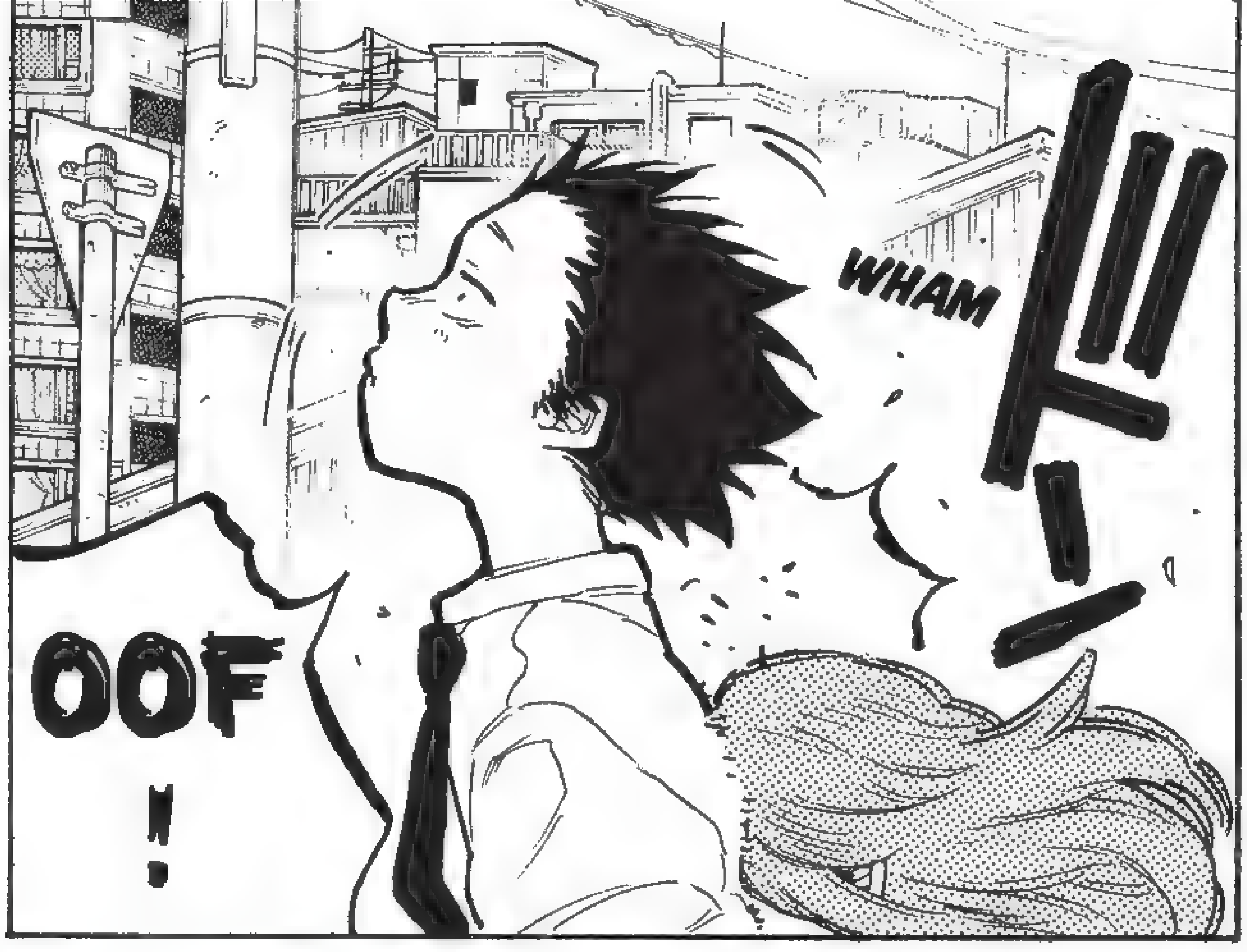

THANK YOU FOR TODAY. IT MADE ME HAPPY TO HEAR YOU WERE LOOKING FOR MIYOKO.
サハ3135-1
ゴトン
KLUNK
ガタン
KLANK
ACTUALLY, TODAY I HEARD SOME EVEN BETTER NEWS FROM MY SISTER.
THAT YOU HELPED HER WHEN SHE RAN AWAY FROM HOME...
...AND THAT YOU HELPED HER SEARCH FOR ME THAT NIGHT, TOO.

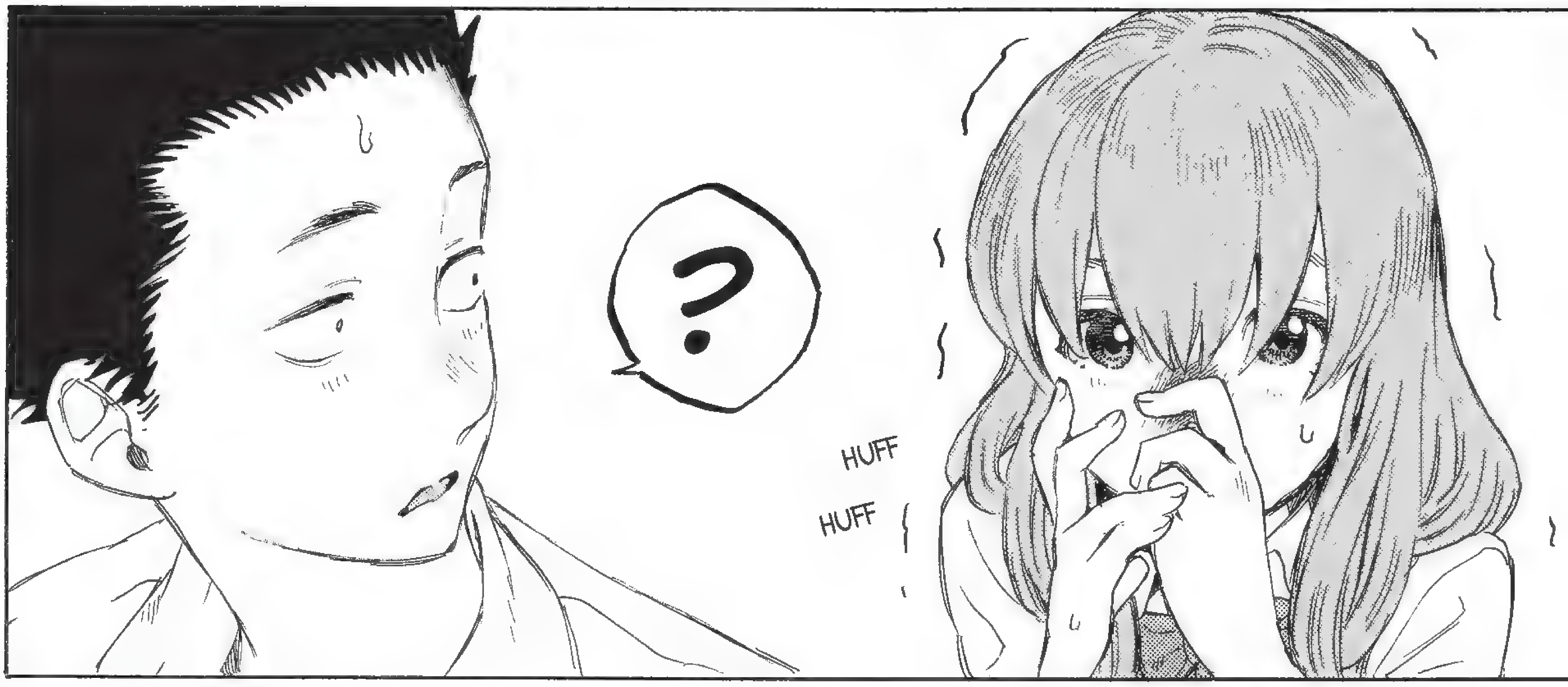
SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
-SHOKO NISHIMIYA
THIS TEXT...
ゴトン
KLUNK
カタン
KLANK
ゴトン
KLUNK
GLANCE
カタン
KLANK

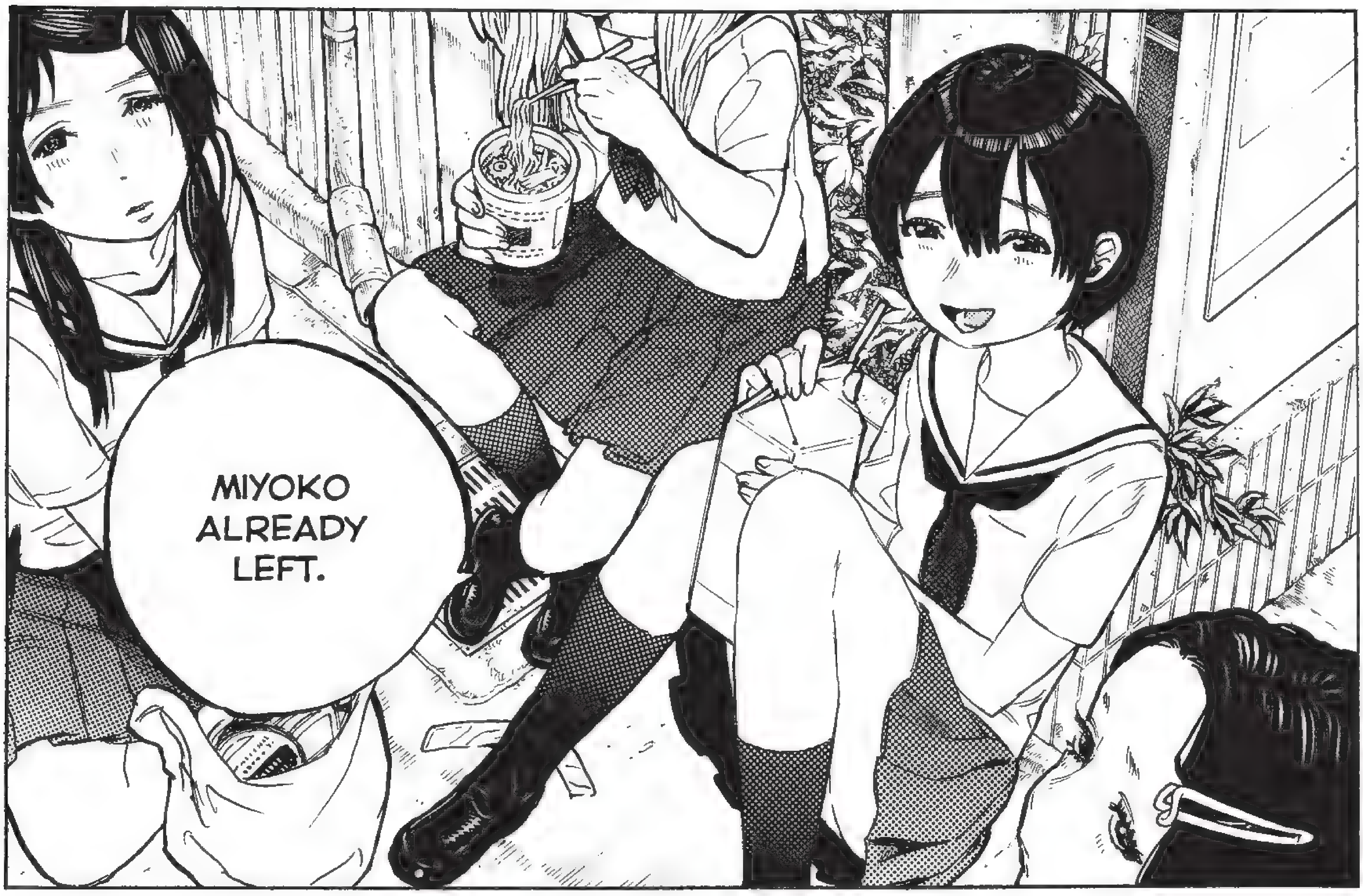
CHAPTER 16: WHAT I TOOK FROM HER

I WONDER IF MIYOKO IS STILL AT SCHOOL...
WE'D BETTER HURRY, NISHIMIYA...
ACCORING TO THE MAP, IT'S...
TEP TEP
OH, SO IT'S THIS WAY?
TEP TEP TEP
TEP TEP TEP TEP


OH, THAT MUST BE THE PLACE!
ピタ
HALT


ドーン!!
WHAM
OOF
!

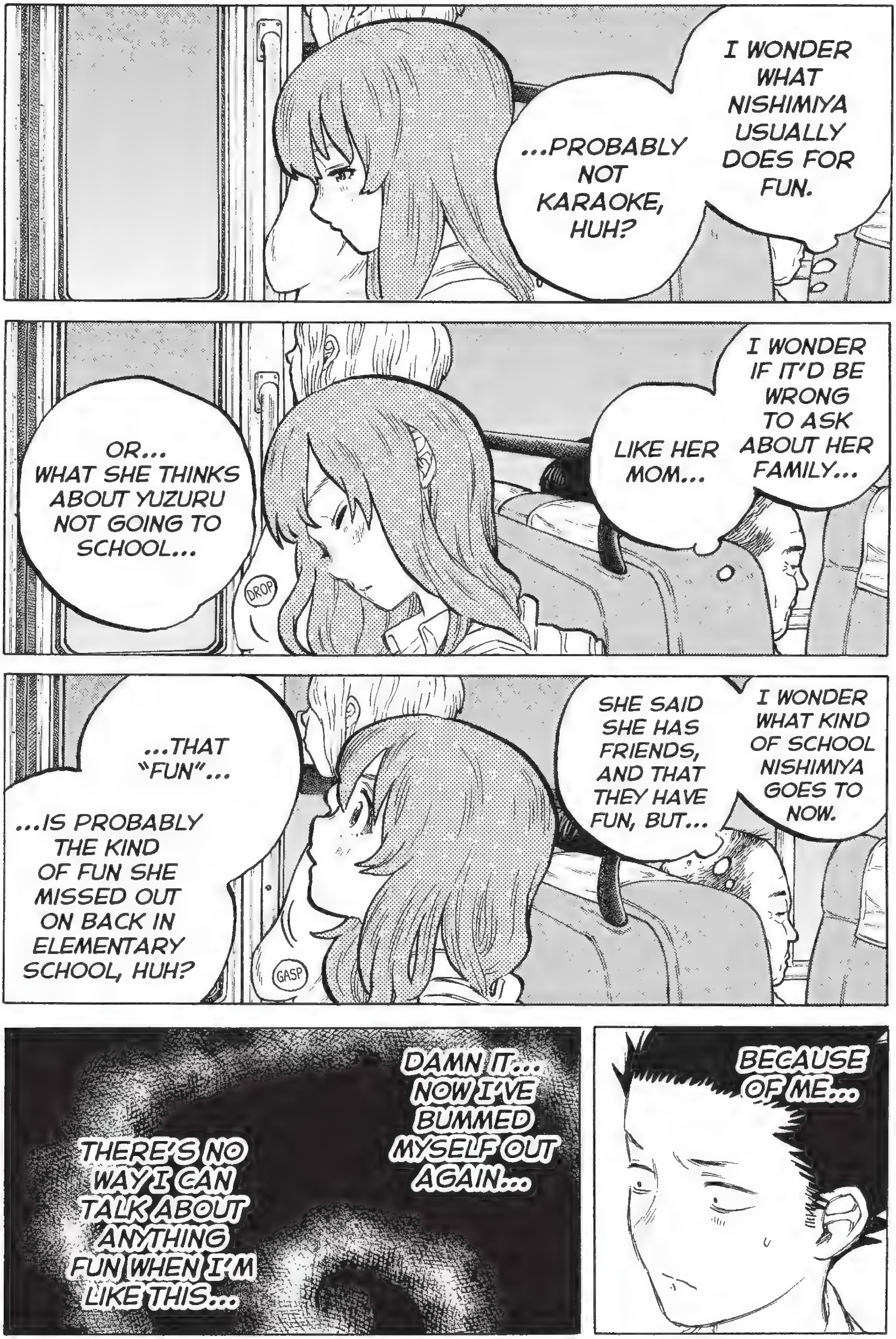

?
HUFF
HUFF


MIYOKO ALREADY LEFT.

DO YOU KNOW HER CONTACT INFO?
NOPE.
BESIDES, YOU'RE FREAKING US OUT. WHO *ARE* YOU?
...
GUESS WE WERE TOO LATE...
LET'S GO, NISHIMIYA.
THEY SAID SHE'S GONE.
SORRY.
"THANK YOU," HUH? I HOPE SHE'S NOT WORRIED ABOUT MY FEELINGS...
...ESPECIALLY AFTER I EXHAUSTED HER WITH THIS ROUND TRIP SHE WASTED ¥1,600* ON...
MAN, I'M SO USELESS...

*¥1,600: AROUND $16.00

ガタン ゴトン ガタン
KLANK
...
KLUNK
KLANK
I BETTER SAY SOMETHING...
IF WE GO HOME LIKE THIS, THE ONLY MEMORY WE'RE GONNA HAVE ABOUT TODAY IS GETTING TIRED...
I NEED SOMETHING FUN TO TALK ABOUT...


I WONDER WHAT NISHIMIYA USUALLY DOES FOR FUN.
...PROBABLY NOT KARAOKE, HUH?
I WONDER IF IT'D BE WRONG TO ASK ABOUT HER FAMILY...
LIKE HER MOM...
OR... WHAT SHE THINKS ABOUT YUZURU NOT GOING TO SCHOOL...
DROP
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL NISHIMIYA GOES TO NOW.
SHE SAID SHE HAS FRIENDS, AND THAT THEY HAVE FUN, BUT...
...THAT "FUN"...
...IS PROBABLY THE KIND OF FUN SHE MISSED OUT ON BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HUH?
GASP
BECAUSE OF ME...
DAMN IT... NOW I'VE BUMMED MYSELF OUT AGAIN...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING FUN WHEN I'M LIKE THIS...

LAST STOP. THIS IS THE LAST STOP ON THIS LINE.
IN THE END, I ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING.
W-WELL, I GUESS THIS IS WHERE WE SPLIT UP, NISHIMIYA.
BOW
SEE YA.
DID YOU SEE THAT? THOSE TWO WERE USING SIGN LANGUAGE!
THEY'RE SO LUCKY! I WANNA LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE!
WATCH YOUR MOUTHS, GIRLS.
!
?
...

I WONDER IF SHE OVERHEARS CONVERSATIONS LIKE THAT.
I WONDER WHAT SHE THINKS IF SHE DOES...
AHHH... I'VE GOT SO MANY QUESTIONS I CAN'T ASK, EVEN IF I WANTED TO...
AM I GOING TO THINK LIKE THIS EVERY TIME I'M AROUND NISHIMIYA?
JINGA-LING
Tomohiro Nagatsuka
Sensei's gonna be pissed!
Jeez, declaring ahead of time you're gonna be late... What a classy fellow you are.. Well, that is why I like you. What about you? If you're gonna leave me you better find
I'M READY FOR THAT, TOMOHIRO ...
THE TRAIN WILL DEPART MOMENTARILY.

PLEASE DO NOT RUN AS YOU BOARD THE TRAIN.
WHAM
STOMP
WHOA!
STOMP
UGH... TALK ABOUT PACKED...
...
...
...
!

WOW, THIS GIRL IS TALL...
キィイイイ
SKREEEEE
HURK
イイ
EEK
...
I-
I'M SORRY.

OH!
I THOUGHT SO...
YIKES!
WHOA!
WHAP
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?

ド
THUD
OOF
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SHOYA?
IT'S ME... MIYOKO.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

S-
SURE, I REMEMBER YOU!
ACTUALLY, I SPOTTED YOU AT THE STATION...
...AND FOLLOWED YOU.
I JUST SAW AN ARTICLE ON THE INTERNET THE OTHER DAY THAT GOT ME THINKING ABOUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT, HUH?
THAT *WAS* YOU, WASN'T IT?
HAHA... YEAH.
BUT THAT ARTICLE WAS FAKE...
KLAK
?!
OH... CAN YOU STAND?
DON'T WORRY!
UPSY-DAISY.
KLAK

PHEW!
PAT
GOOD MORNING, MIYOKO!
YOU WANNA WALK TO SCHOOL WITH US?
SEE YOU AROUND, SHOYA.
TAKE CARE!
OH!
W-WAIT!
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO SEE YOU!

AFTER SCHOOL
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG!
SHOULD WE GET GOING?
YEAH.
LET'S GO SEE NISHIMIYA.
BY THE WAY, SHOYA...
KLAK
YOU AND NISHIMIYA DIDN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE FRIENDS TO ME...
OH... YEAH... NOT BACK THEN...
THESE DAYS... WELL, WE'RE STILL NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D CALL CLOSE...
...BUT I HAVE BEEN SEEING HER A LOT LATELY.
が登場!

LUCKY.
I'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW HER WELL ENOUGH TO HANG OUT WITH HER...
NO...
...I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW HER WELL ENOUGH TO HANG OUT WITH HER.
MIYOKO STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL...
...SO SHE DIDN'T SEE HOW BAD I TREATED NISHIMIYA.
SHE ONLY CAME BACK FOR GRADUATION.
BY THEN, NISHIMIYA HAD ALREADY TRANSFERRED.
THAT DAY, MIYOKO DIDN'T SPEAK TO ANYONE.
I ONLY SAW HER ONCE DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL.
...THAT DAY WHEN I WENT TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
SHE WAS READING SOME BOOK THE WHOLE TIME.

I WAS READING ...
...A BOOK ON SIGN LANGUAGE.
YOU WERE ?!!!
IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE?
YEP.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
YOU DID VOLUNTEER TO STUDY SIGN LANGUAGE IN SIXTH GRADE, DIDN'T YOU?
YEP! THAT'S THE ONE THING I'VE KEPT UP WITH!
BUT I'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...
AND I STILL HAVEN'T USED IT ONCE...
BUT... I'M ABOUT TO GET MY CHANCE...
I'M SO HAPPY...

OH...
GUESS WHO ?!

SHA-HARA...
EHEHEH. LONG TIME NO SEE.
!
OH... SIGN LANGUAGE?
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW MUCH, BUT I DID STUDY A LITTLE.
PLUS... YOU TAUGHT ME A BIT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, SHOKO.

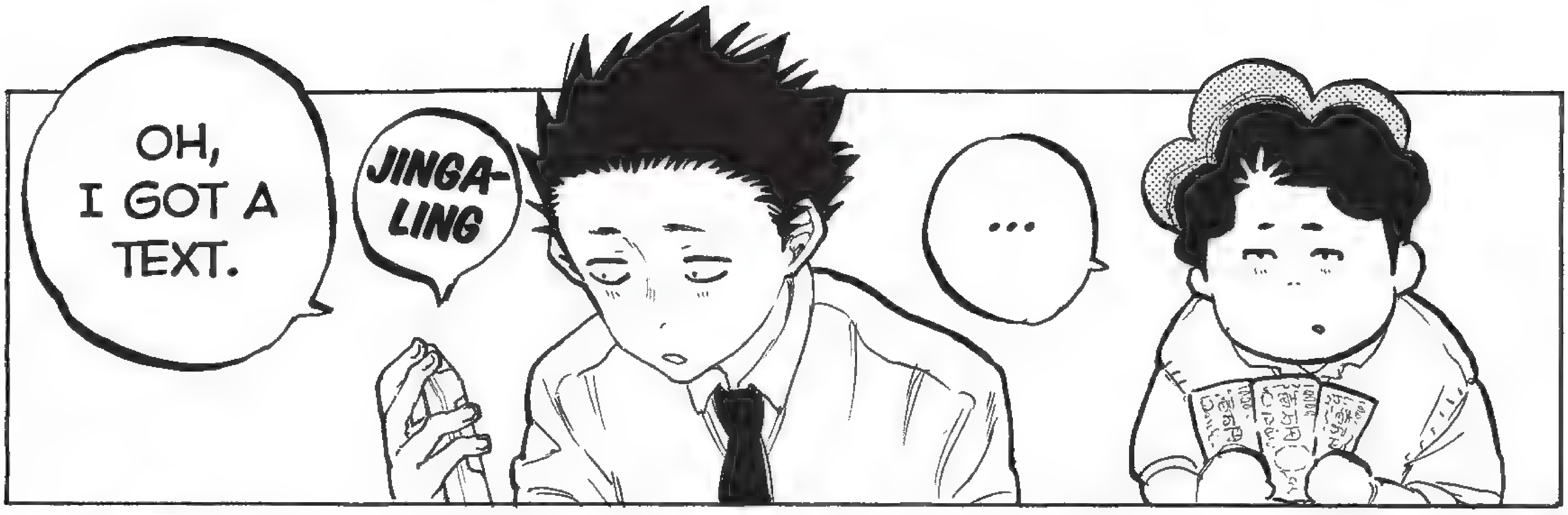
I'M SORRY...
...FOR DISAPPEARING ON YOU...
...BACK IN SIXTH GRADE...
SO I WANT... TO GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE...
IT WON'T BRING BACK SHOKO'S RUINED CHILDHOOD.

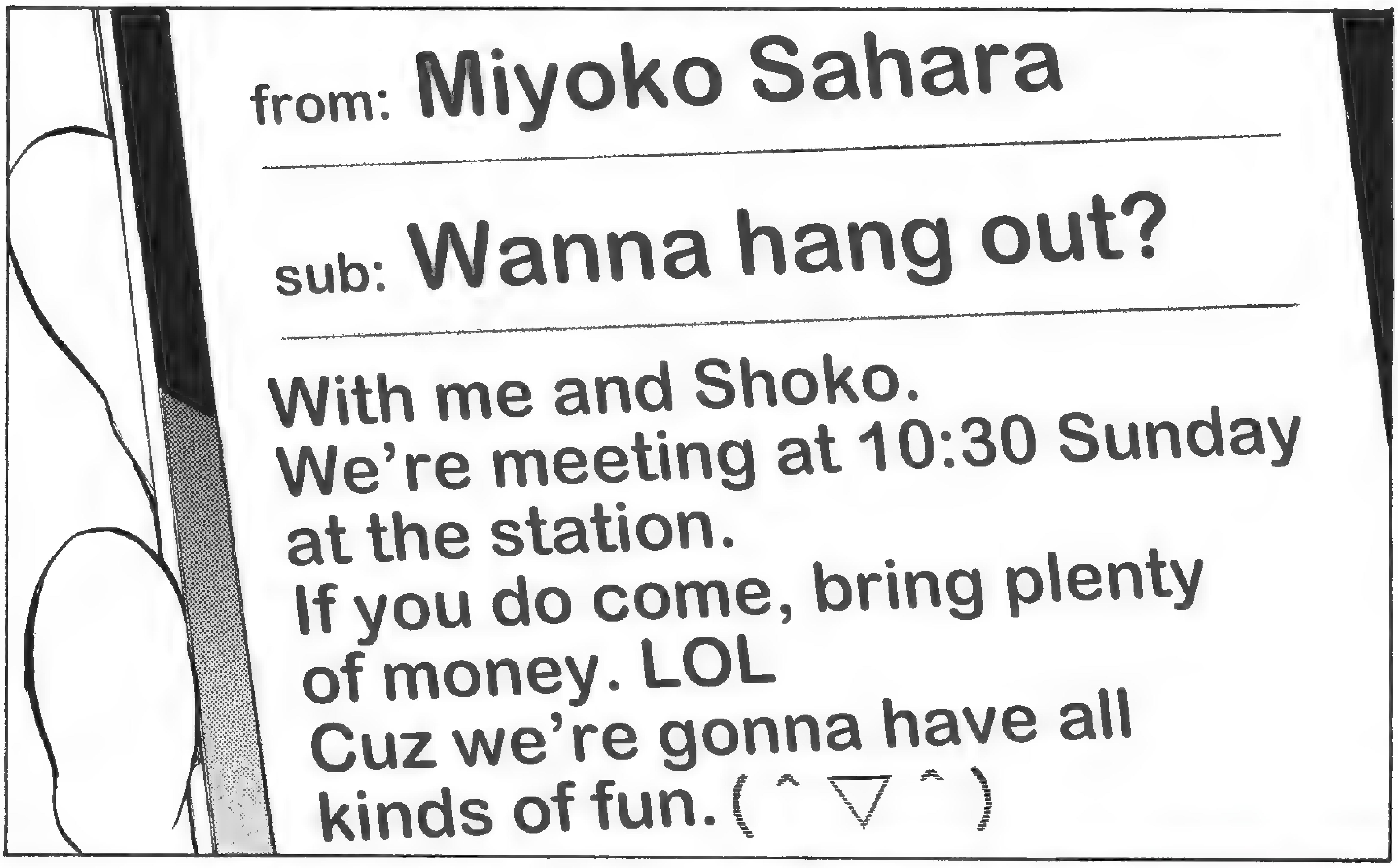
IF NISHIMIYA HAD BEEN AT SCHOOL ON GRADUATION DAY, MAYBE MIYOKO WOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING.
AND IF NISHIMIYA HAD BEEN THERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MAYBE MIYOKO WOULD HAVE COME TO CLASS.
I'M THE ONE WHO TOOK THAT FROM THEM.
WHEN I SAW THEIR SMILES, I THOUGHT TO MYSELF...
"I MUST RESTORE THE MANY THINGS I TOOK FROM NISHIMIYA."

MORNING, TOMOHIRO.
SHK SHK
MORNING.
HUH?
WHERE'D THIS FLYER COME FROM?
AMATEUR FILM CONTEST NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES
GRAND PRIZE (1)
•2 MIL. YEN CASH PRIZE
•SCREENINGS IN SIX CITIES
•DVD RELEASE
HONORABLE MENTION (10)
•50,000 YEN CASH PRIZE
JURY AWARD (1)
•100,000 YEN CASH PRIZE
AN AMATEUR FILM CONTEST? THE WINNING FILM WILL BE SHOWN IN SIX CITIES... HUH...
WHOA!! A ¥2,000,000 PRIZE?!
IF I WON THIS, I COULD MAKE BACK THAT BURNED ¥1,700,000 IN ONE FELL SWOOP!

CHAPTER 17: MEANINGFUL PRESENCE

SO, SHOYA...
SHALL WE ENTER?
OH, YOU MEAN THIS CONTEST?
I CAN'T ENTER THIS.
I DON'T HAVE ANY SKILLS FOR IT, AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MOVIES.
SKRUNCH
PLUS, THIS IS OUR SENIOR YEAR. WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME TO WASTE...
YOU JUST LEAVE THAT TO ME!! I'LL BE THE DIRECTOR!
AND YOU'LL BE MY ASSISTANT!
WHAP
DON'T I GET A SAY IN THIS?!
THAT'S COLD, MY FRIEND!! AND AFTER I LENT YOU ¥30,000 THE OTHER DAY?!
OH, RIGHT... I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO AVOID USING ANY OF THAT.
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK.

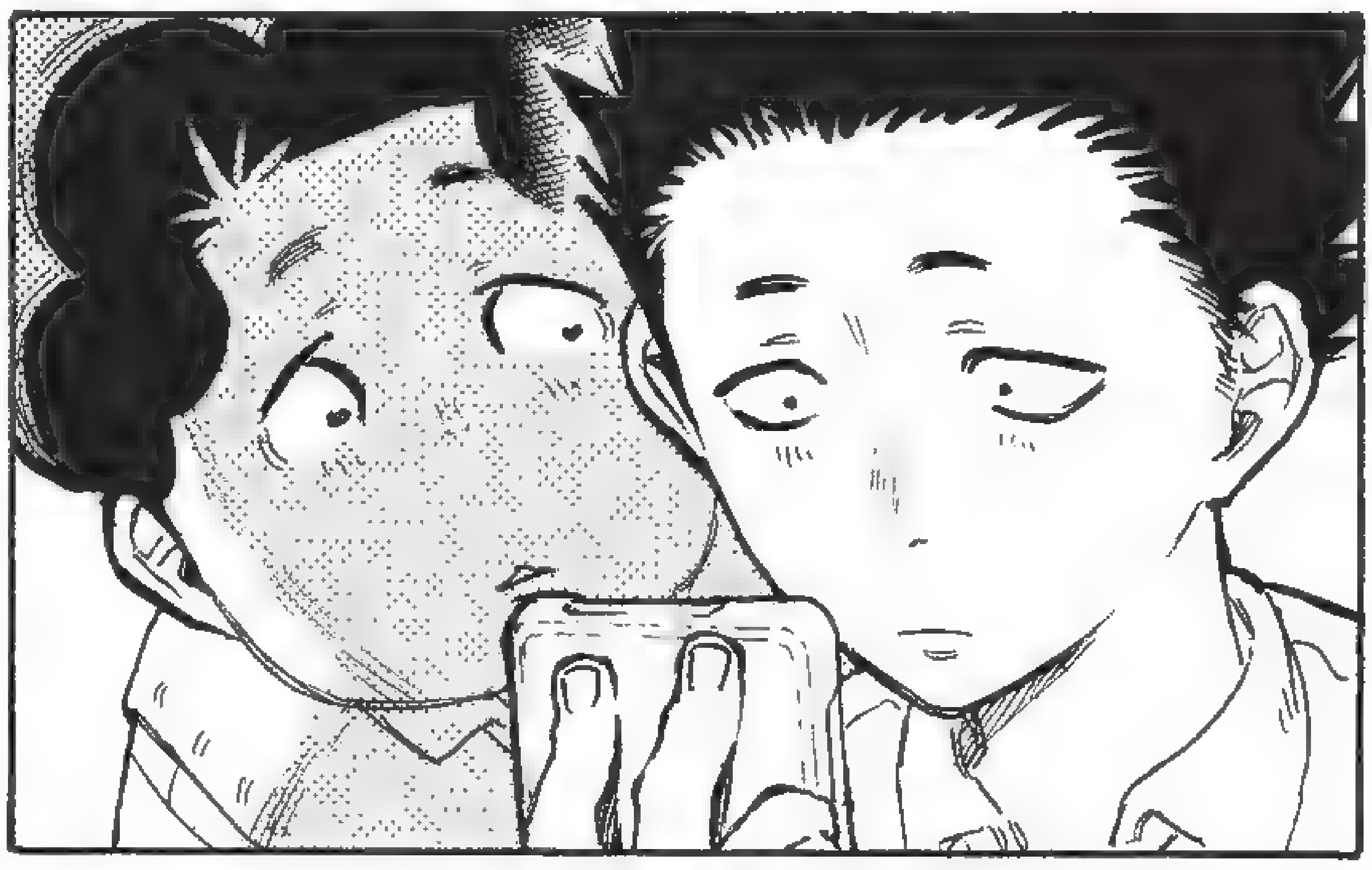

...
JINGA-LING
OH, I GOT A TEXT.

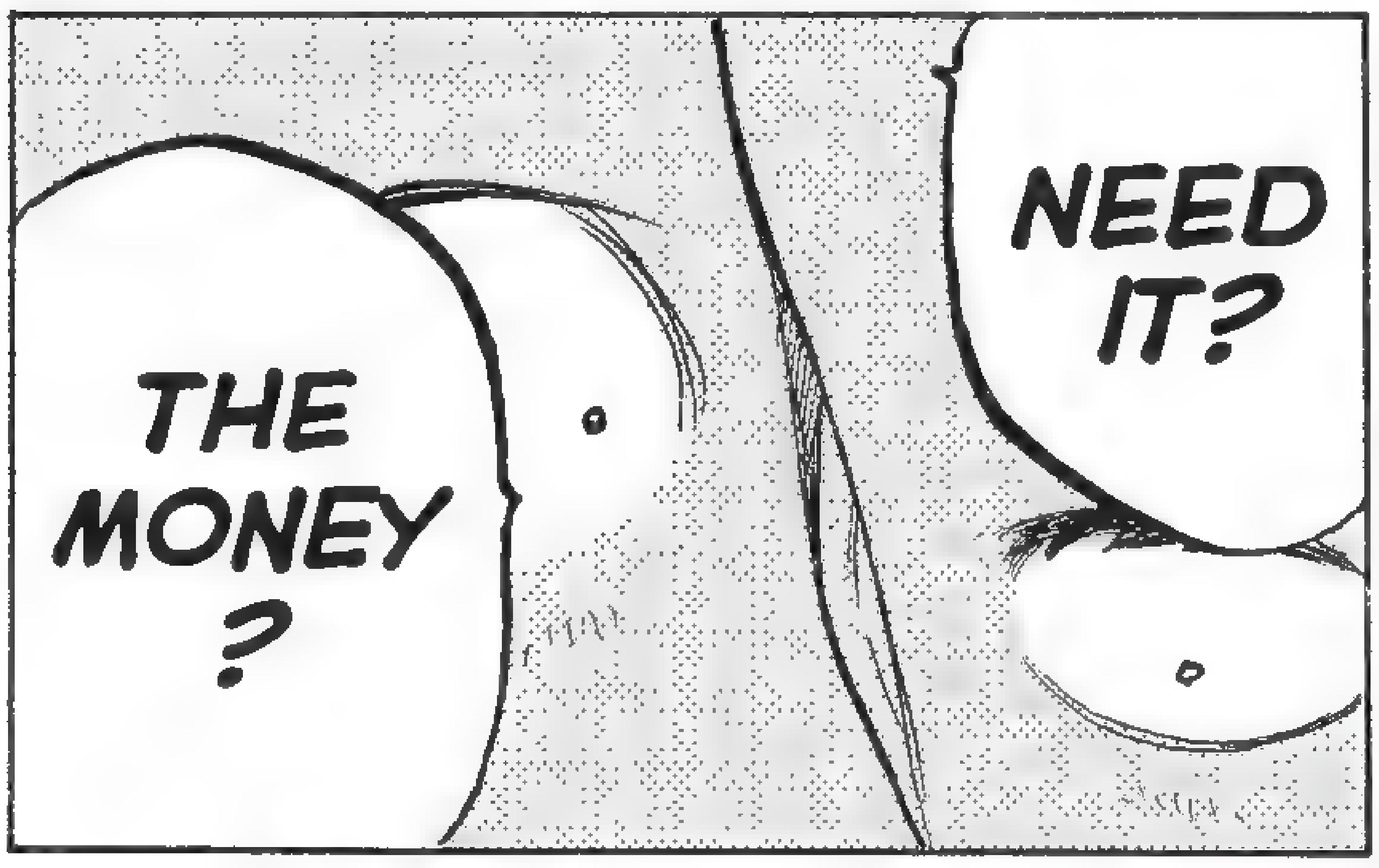


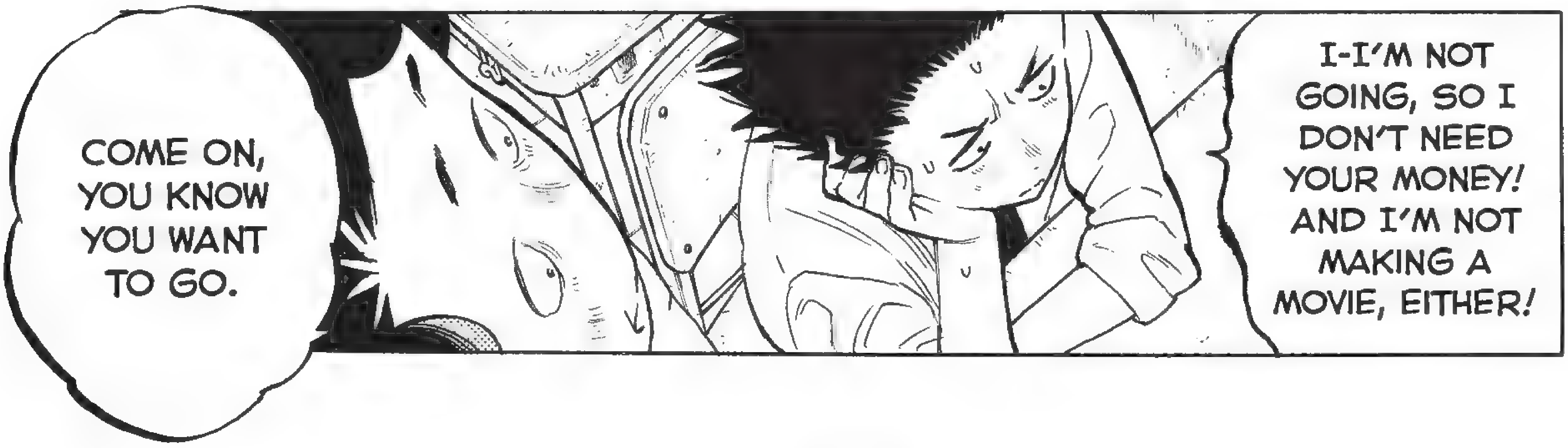
from: **Miyoko Sahara**

sub: **Wanna hang out?**

With me and Shoko.
We're meeting at 10:30 Sunday at the station.
If you do come, bring plenty of money. LOL
Cuz we're gonna have all kinds of fun. (^ ▽ ^)

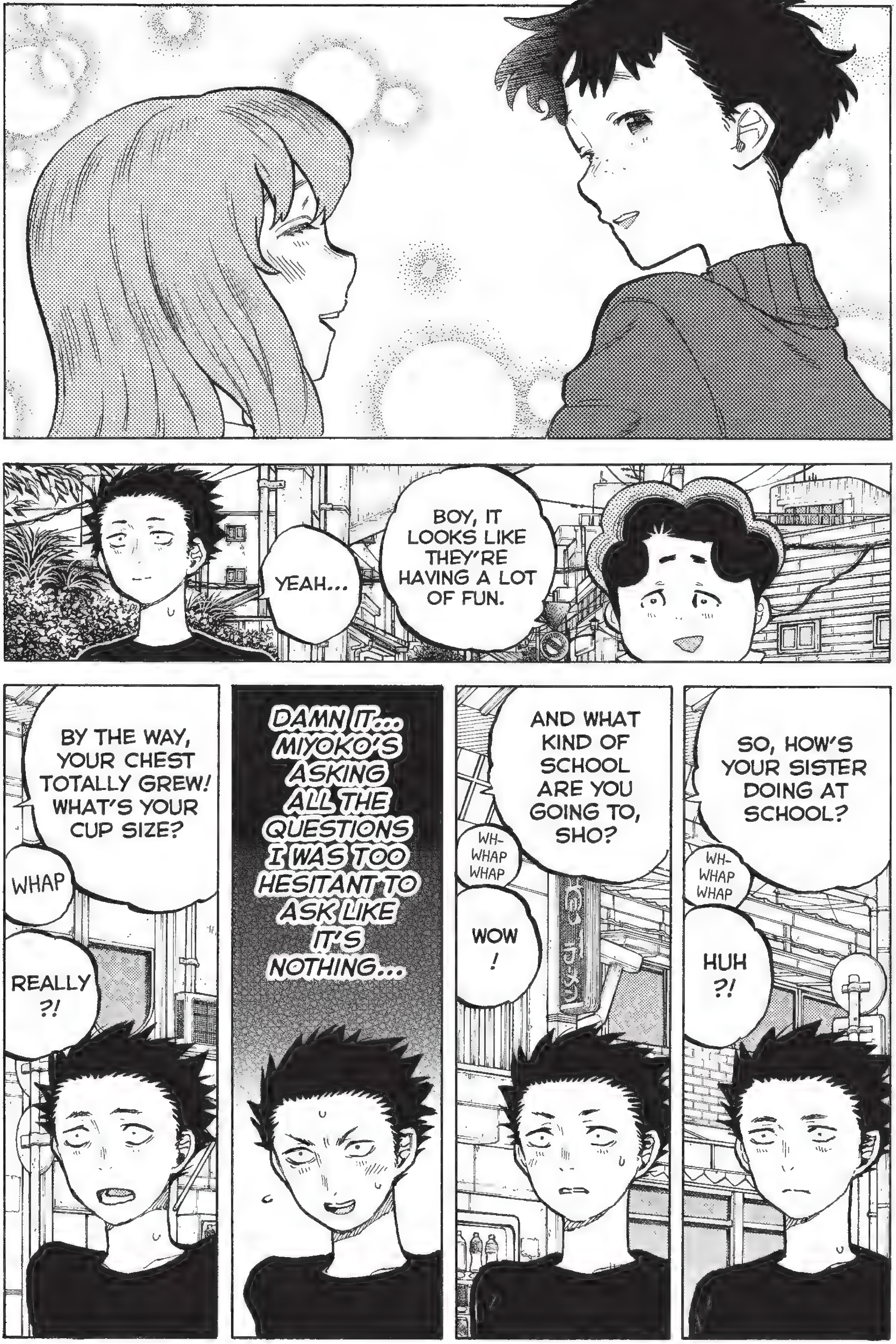



NEED IT?
THE MONEY?


I-I'M NOT GOING, SO I DON'T NEED YOUR MONEY! AND I'M NOT MAKING A MOVIE, EITHER!
COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO GO.

1
OH! THERE HE IS!
YO...
OF COURSE I CAME...
...
LLYWO
OH, ARE YOU SHOYA'S FRIEND?
YEAH, I BROUGHT HIM ALONG. IS THAT OKAY?
THE MORE THE MERRIER!
I AM SHOYA'S BEST FRIEND, TOMOHIRO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
HELLO, I'M MIYOKO.
H-
HEL-LO.

SO, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
YOU'LL SEE. FOLLOW ME!
ブイ
BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH
...
...I CHECKED LAST NIGHT, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE HAS THE BEST SELECTION.
OH, BY THE WAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR LUNCH?
BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH
WHAP
OH, I LIKE THOSE, TOO!
FROM BEHIND, I CAN'T SEE NISHIMIYA'S RESPONSES AT ALL...
HOW LATE CAN YOU STAY OUT TODAY?
WHAP WHAP
WOW, THAT'S SO EARLY! YOUR MOM WAS ALWAYS STRICT WITH YOUR CURFEW, HUH?
WH-WHAP WH-WHAP
YEAH?
WHAT? REALLY?! I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED!
どっ
BOOM


BOY, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
YEAH...
SO, HOW'S YOUR SISTER DOING AT SCHOOL?
WH-WHAP WHAP
HUH ?!
AND WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL ARE YOU GOING TO, SHO?
WH-WHAP WHAP
WOW !
DAMN IT... MIYOKO'S ASKING ALL THE QUESTIONS I WAS TOO HESITANT TO ASK LIKE IT'S NOTHING...
BY THE WAY, YOUR CHEST TOTALLY GREW! WHAT'S YOUR CUP SIZE?
WHAP
REALLY ?!

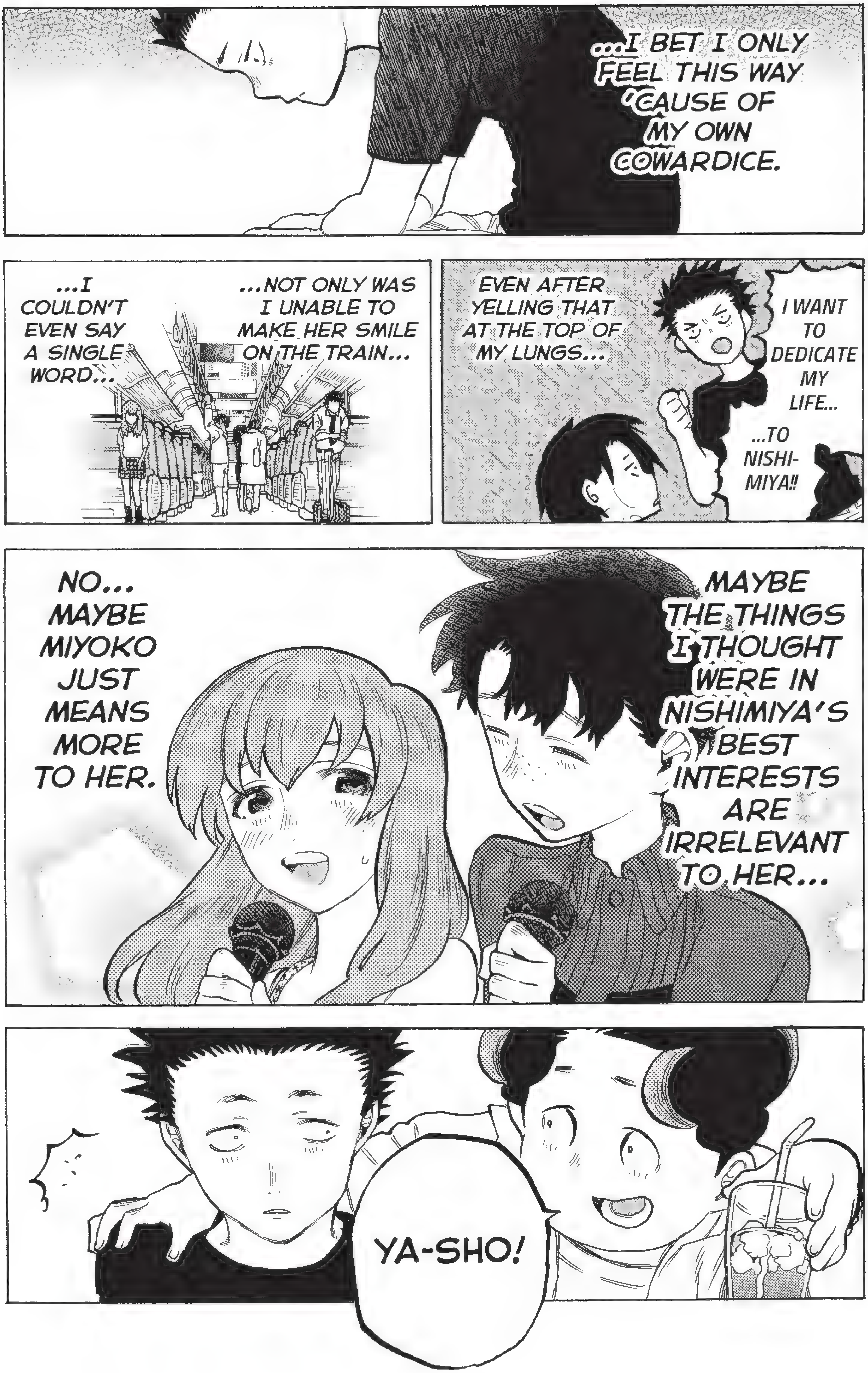
LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!
SQUEEZE
ギュゥー
MIYOKO!!
HA HA HA!
BOY, SHE'S LAUGHING A LOT, HUH?
...

KARAOKE
KARAOKE
WE'RE HERE!
HEY, MIYOKO! HOW'S NISHIMIYA SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANY FUN HERE?!
MIYO-KO !!
HUH? IT'S OKAY.
SHO SAID SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY KARAOKE.
お得な会員登録もあるよ!
OH... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT... SORRY...
UGH...
MIYOKO !!
202

...LIKE A PORTUGUESE MAN O'WAR!
HA!
SHAKKA
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
SLURP
HEY, HEY. LET'S SING SOMETHING, TOO!
HOW ABOUT A CHORUS SONG LIKE WE SANG BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
M-M... MIYOKO...
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD AVOID CHORUS SONGS?
HUH? WHY?
Don't sing, Little Miss Tone-Deaf

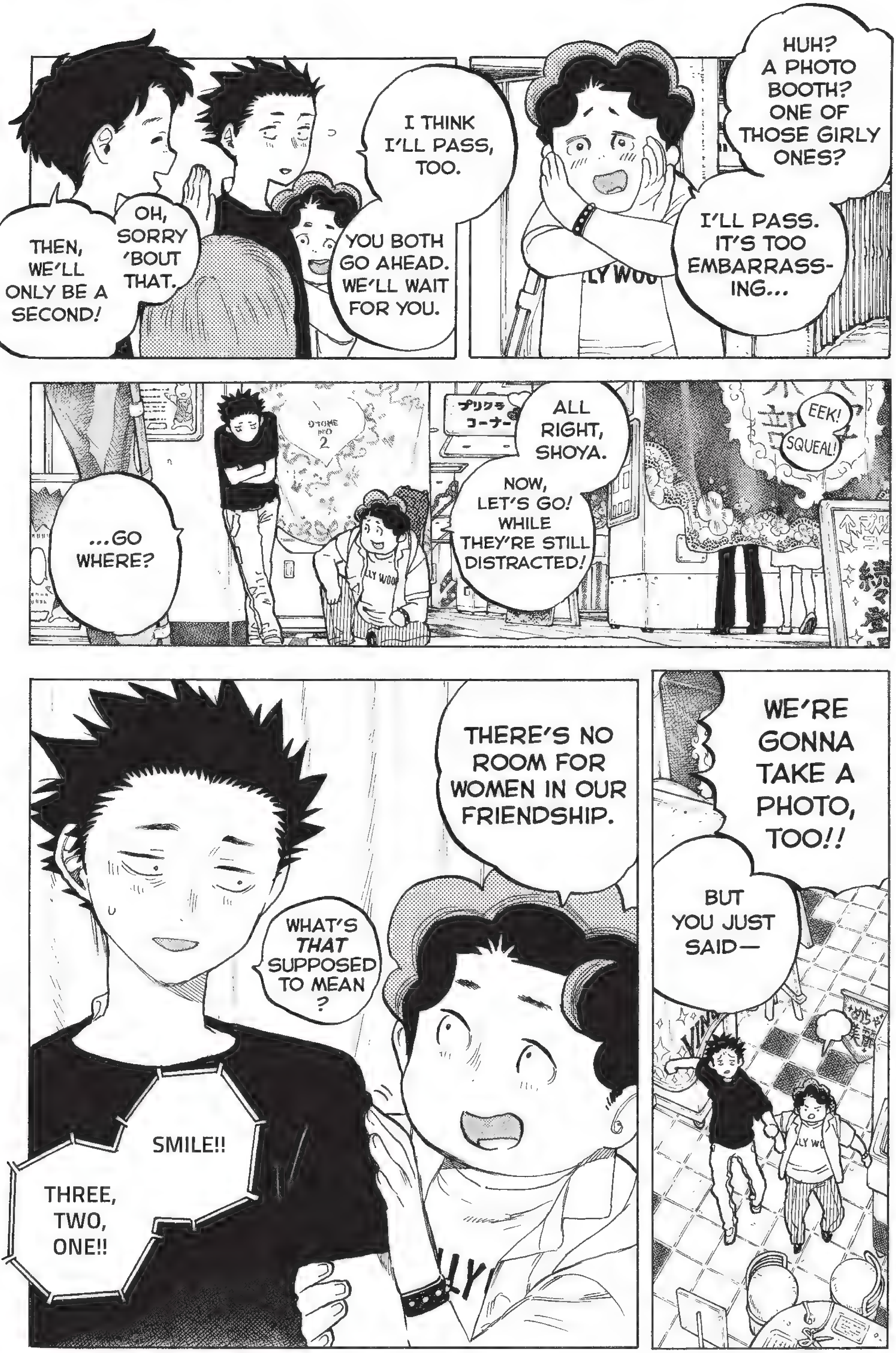
SHE'S ALREADY SINGING.
...
SHAKKA SHAKKA
...

WOW, YOU'RE STILL AS BAD AS EVER, SHO.
AND THAT'S WHEN~ PAPA TOOK ME~
IN HIS ARMS~ AND SAID~♪
...!
MIYOKO ...!
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
MIYOKO'S REALLY NICE, BUT...
...SHE KIND OF TICKS ME OFF...


...I BET I ONLY FEEL THIS WAY 'CAUSE OF MY OWN COWARDICE.
I WANT TO DEDICATE MY LIFE...
...TO NISHIMIYA!!
EVEN AFTER YELLING THAT AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS...
...NOT ONLY WAS I UNABLE TO MAKE HER SMILE ON THE TRAIN...
...I COULDN'T EVEN SAY A SINGLE WORD...
MAYBE THE THINGS I THOUGHT WERE IN NISHIMIYA'S BEST INTERESTS ARE IRRELEVANT TO HER...
NO... MAYBE MIYOKO JUST MEANS MORE TO HER.
YA-SHO!

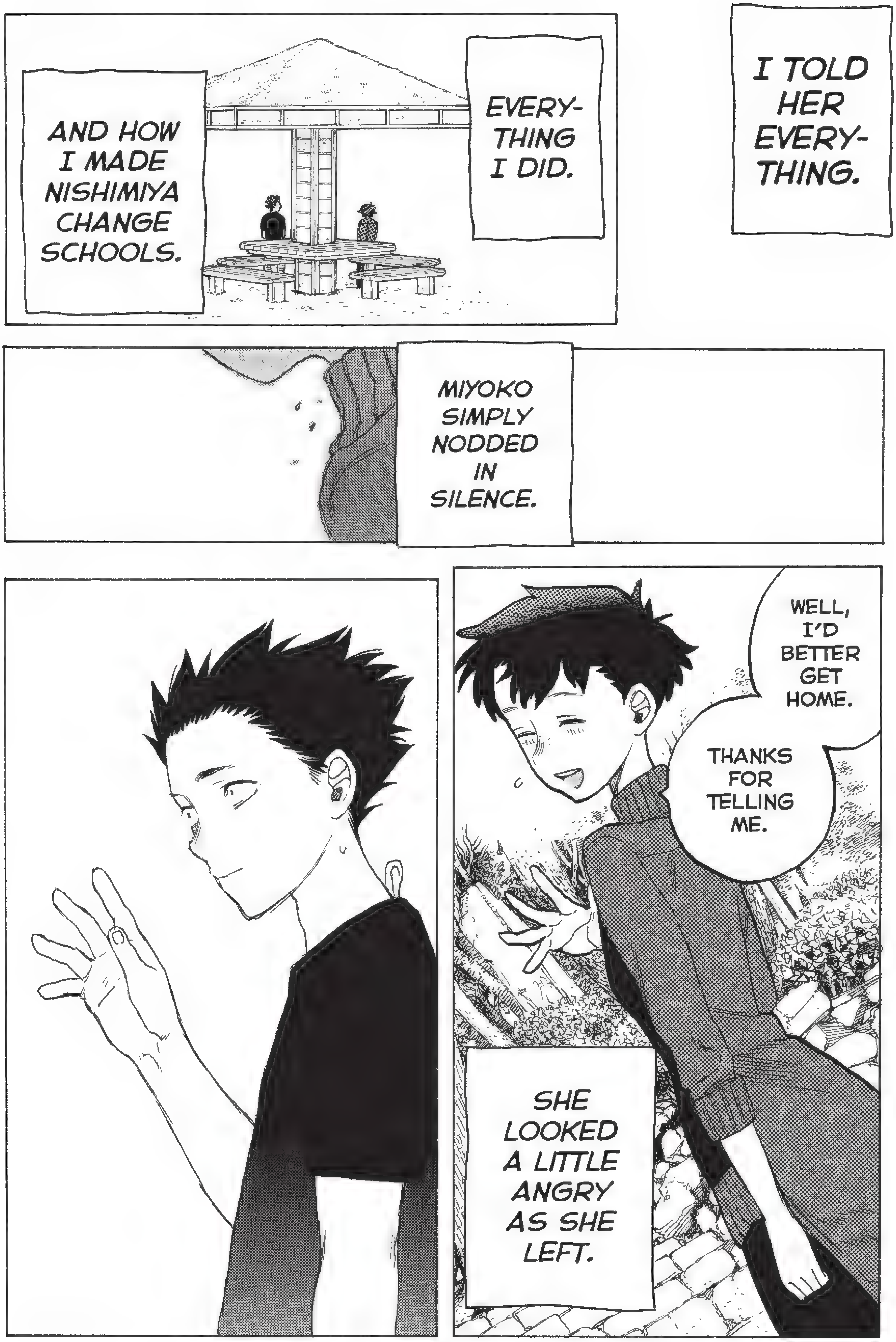
WE'RE HERE ON MY DIME, YOU KNOW.
YOU COULD AT LEAST LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN...
TOMO-HIRO...
HE'S RIGHT...
I CAN'T SIT HERE BROODING ALL NIGHT!
FWIP
GREEN! GREEN!!
THE SUN SMILES~ IN THE BLUE SKY~!!

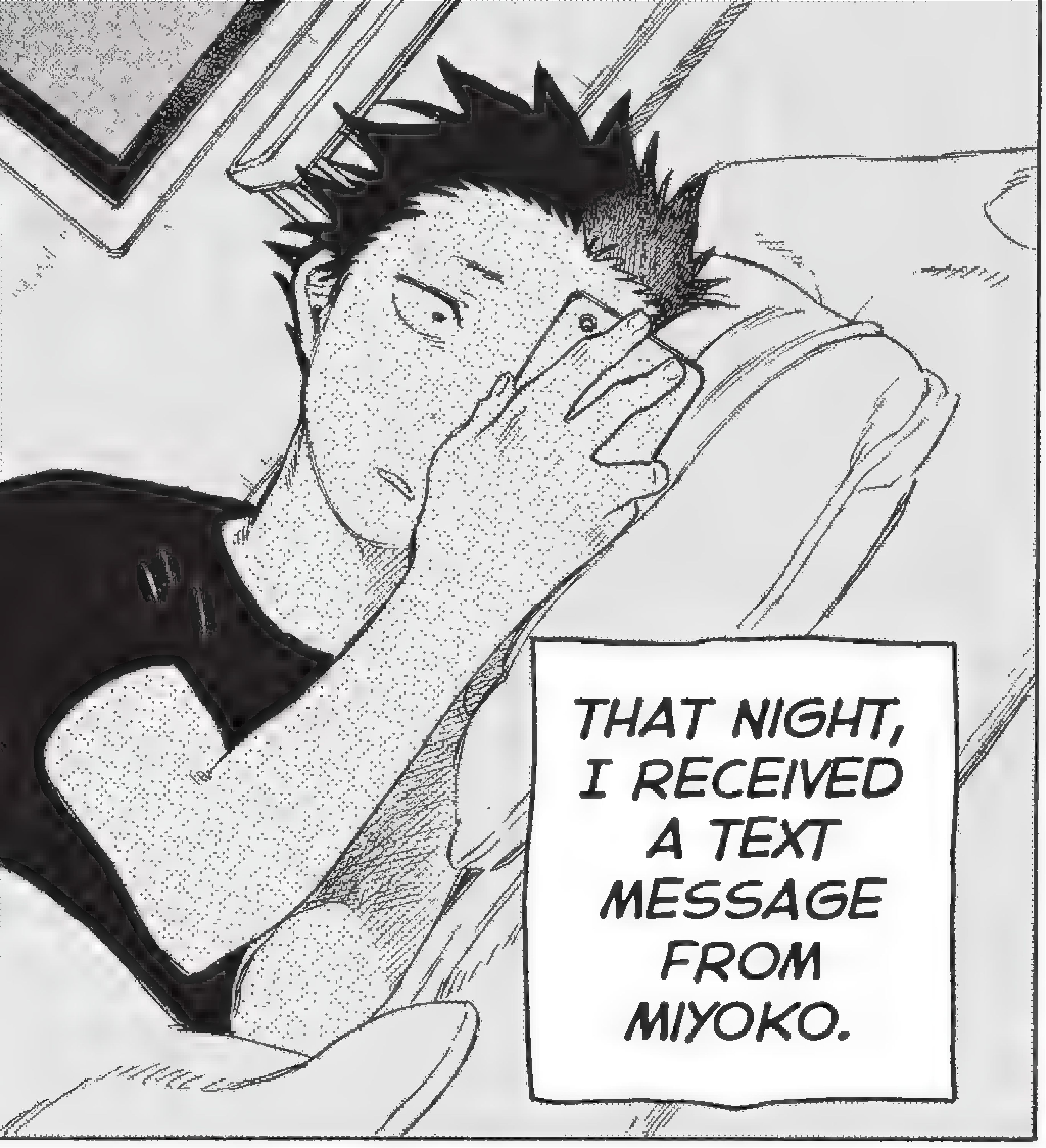
OH, NOT BAD!
WHAT HARMONIZING!
KAW KAW
PHEW! DID WE SING!
MY THROAT IS RAW...
OH, A PHOTO BOOTH!
WHY DON'T WE ALL TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER BEFORE WE LEAVE?

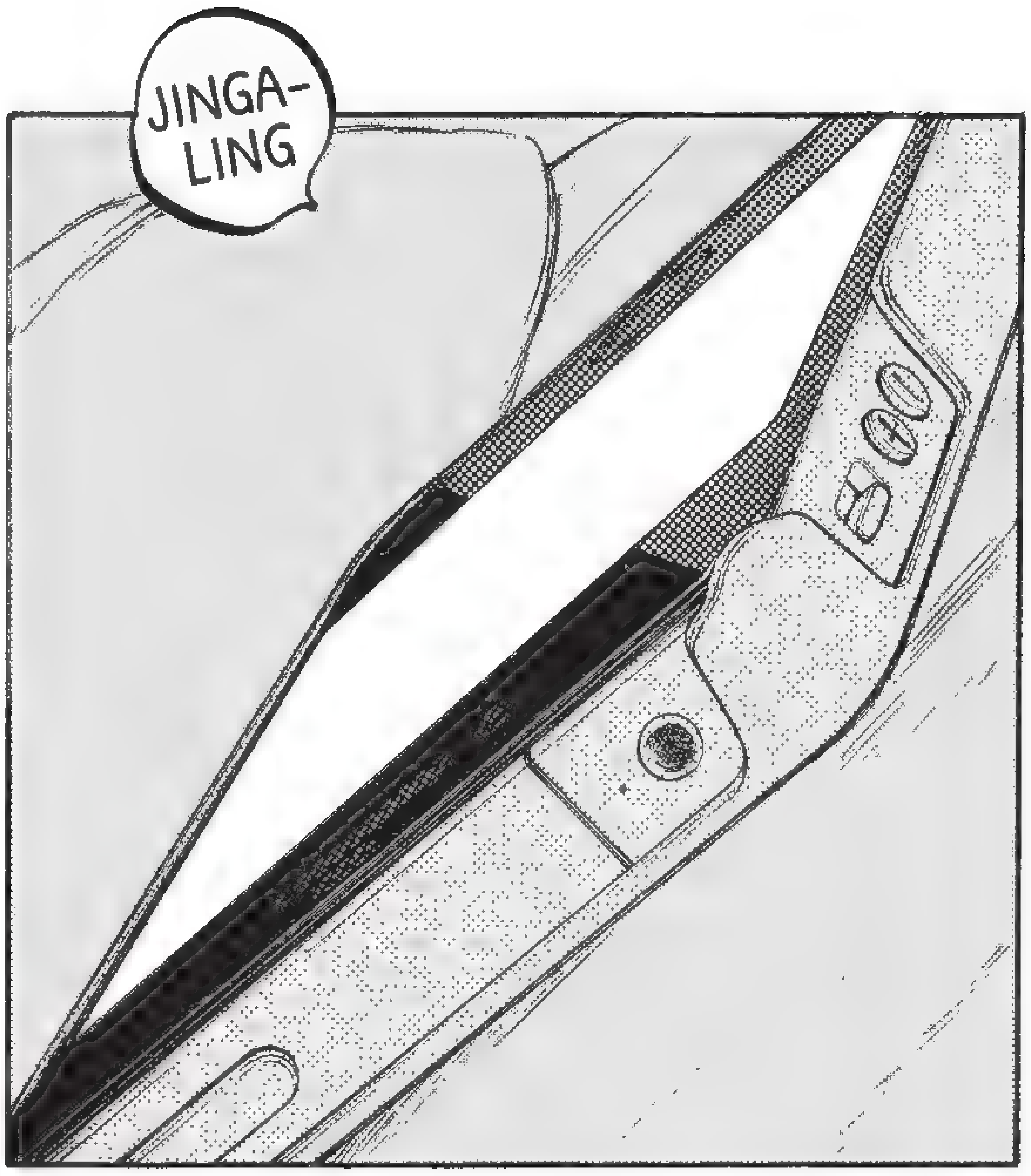

HUH? A PHOTO BOOTH? ONE OF THOSE GIRLY ONES?
I'LL PASS. IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING...
I THINK I'LL PASS, TOO.
YOU BOTH GO AHEAD. WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
OH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
THEN, WE'LL ONLY BE A SECOND!
EEK!
SQUEAL!
プリクラ コーナー
ALL RIGHT, SHOYA.
NOW, LET'S GO! WHILE THEY'RE STILL DISTRACTED!
...GO WHERE?
WE'RE GONNA TAKE A PHOTO, TOO!!
BUT YOU JUST SAID—
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR WOMEN IN OUR FRIENDSHIP.
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SMILE!!
THREE, TWO, ONE!!

kiss!!
LOVE♥LOVE
I DON'T WANT THIS!!
HURK
HOW CUTE!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
WHY DON'T WE HEAD HOME?
WELL, I'M THIS WAY.
DON'T FORGET WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, SHOYA!
...OKAY?
BOW
SEE YOU LATER!

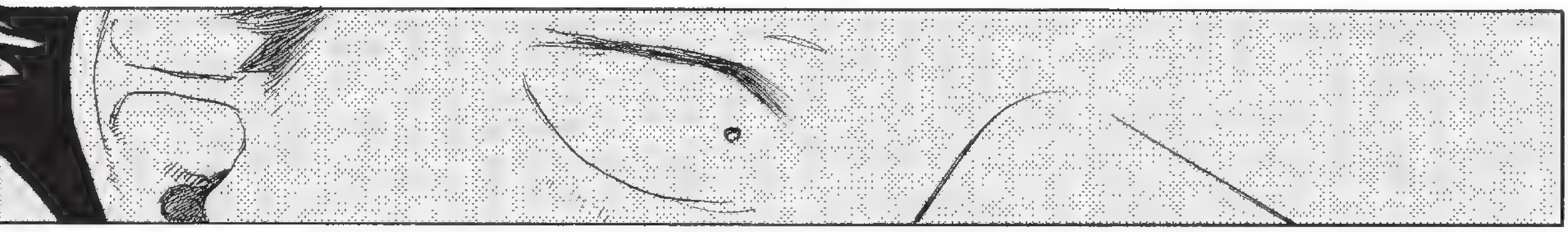
WHY DON'T WE GET GOING, MIYOKO?
?
OKAY.
WASN'T TODAY FUN, SHOYA?
OH... YEAH, IT WAS.
IT FEELS LIKE WE MADE UP FOR SOME OF THE TIME WE COULDN'T SPEND TOGETHER...
...BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
I FELT LIKE I *HAD* TO TELL MIYOKO.
MIYOKO...
DO YOU HAVE A FEW MINUTES?


I TOLD HER EVERYTHING.
EVERYTHING I DID.
AND HOW I MADE NISHIMIYA CHANGE SCHOOLS.
MIYOKO SIMPLY NODDED IN SILENCE.
WELL, I'D BETTER GET HOME.
THANKS FOR TELLING ME.
SHE LOOKED A LITTLE ANGRY AS SHE LEFT.


THAT NIGHT, I RECEIVED A TEXT MESSAGE FROM MIYOKO.



It's okay, Shoya.



Since Sho was smiling,
I've decided to smile too.

This is for you: (⊃ ˆ ∀

THANKS FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER
MIYOKO ...!
I THINK I PROBABLY CRIED A LITTLE.
HAIR MAKE ISHIDA

CHAPTER 18: I DON'T CARE IN THE LEAST

CHOMP CHOMP
CHOMP CHOMP
OH, THEY'RE REALLY WOLFING IT DOWN, HUH?
YAY!
YAY!
THIS IS FUN!
...

WHO'S THAT?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE, YUZURU.
SHE'S A CLASSMATE FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WAIT, YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE HER?
MAYBE I KNEW HER AND MAYBE I DIDN'T. I DON'T KNOW.
SO... WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?
...OH, UM...
WATCHING?
EW, CREEP!
OH, YOU MUST BE SHO'S SISTER, RIGHT?!
I'M MIYOKO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR SISTER, BACK WHEN WE WERE KIDS!
UH, HI...
I'M YUZURU.
WOW, THAT'S A NICE CAMERA. DID YOU COME TO TAKE PHOTOS?
YES...
YEAH, THIS AREA DOES HAVE SOME NICE SCENERY.
WHAT KIND OF STUFF DO YOU SHOOT?
OH... NOTHING VERY GOOD...
WAIT, SINCE WHEN IS SHE SO BASHFUL?

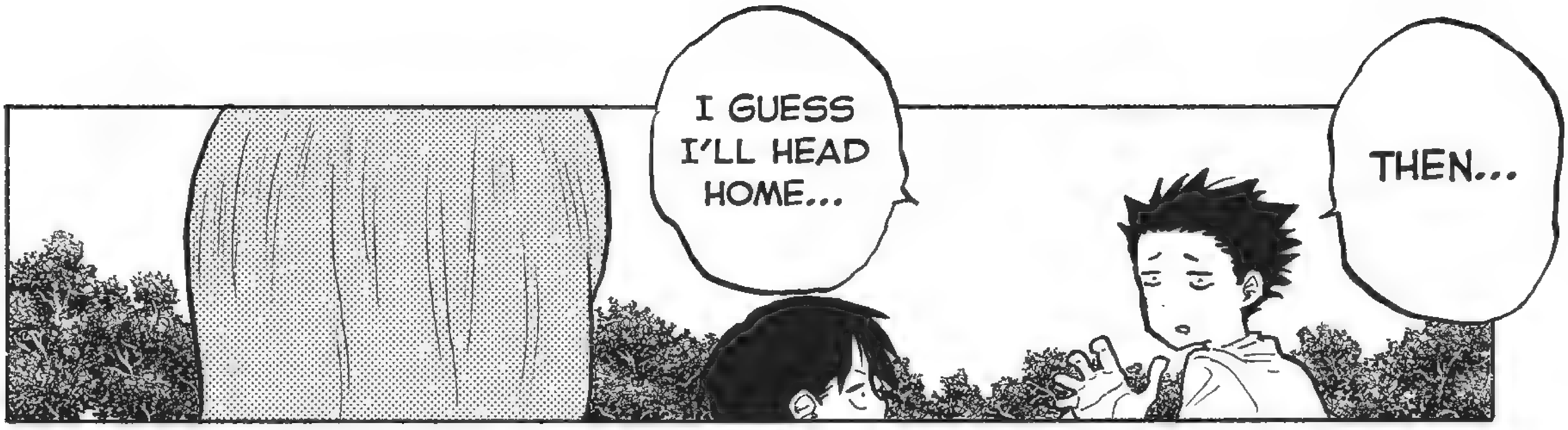
NISHI-MIYA!
OH...
UH...
I'VE GOTTA MAKE CONVERSATION...
...
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE YOU WANT TO SEE? LIKE, FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
...
...

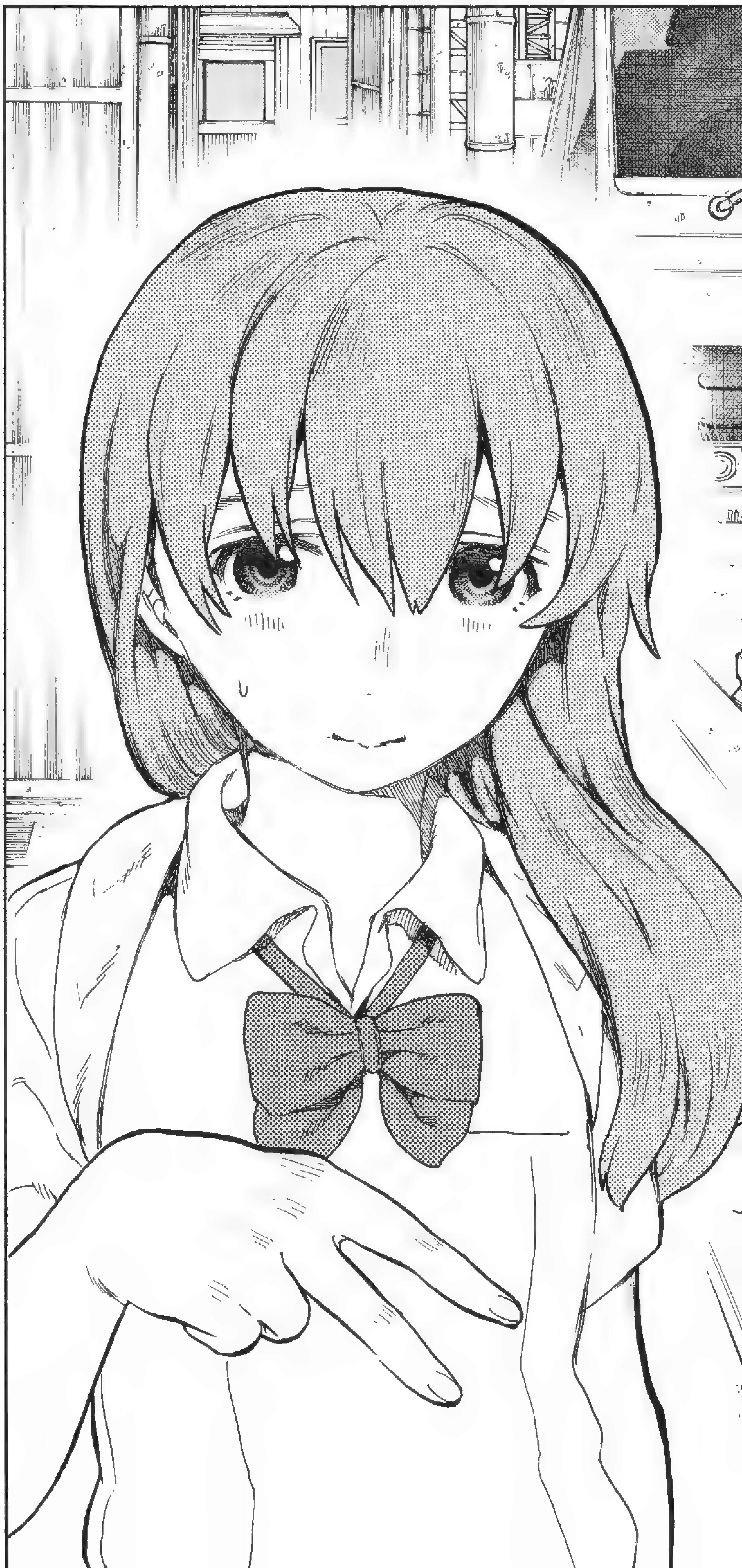
STARE
WH... WHAT?
ME?
NO, THERE'S NO ONE.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE...
I MEAN, WHY WOULD I...
...WANT TO SEE ANY OF THOSE JERKS FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

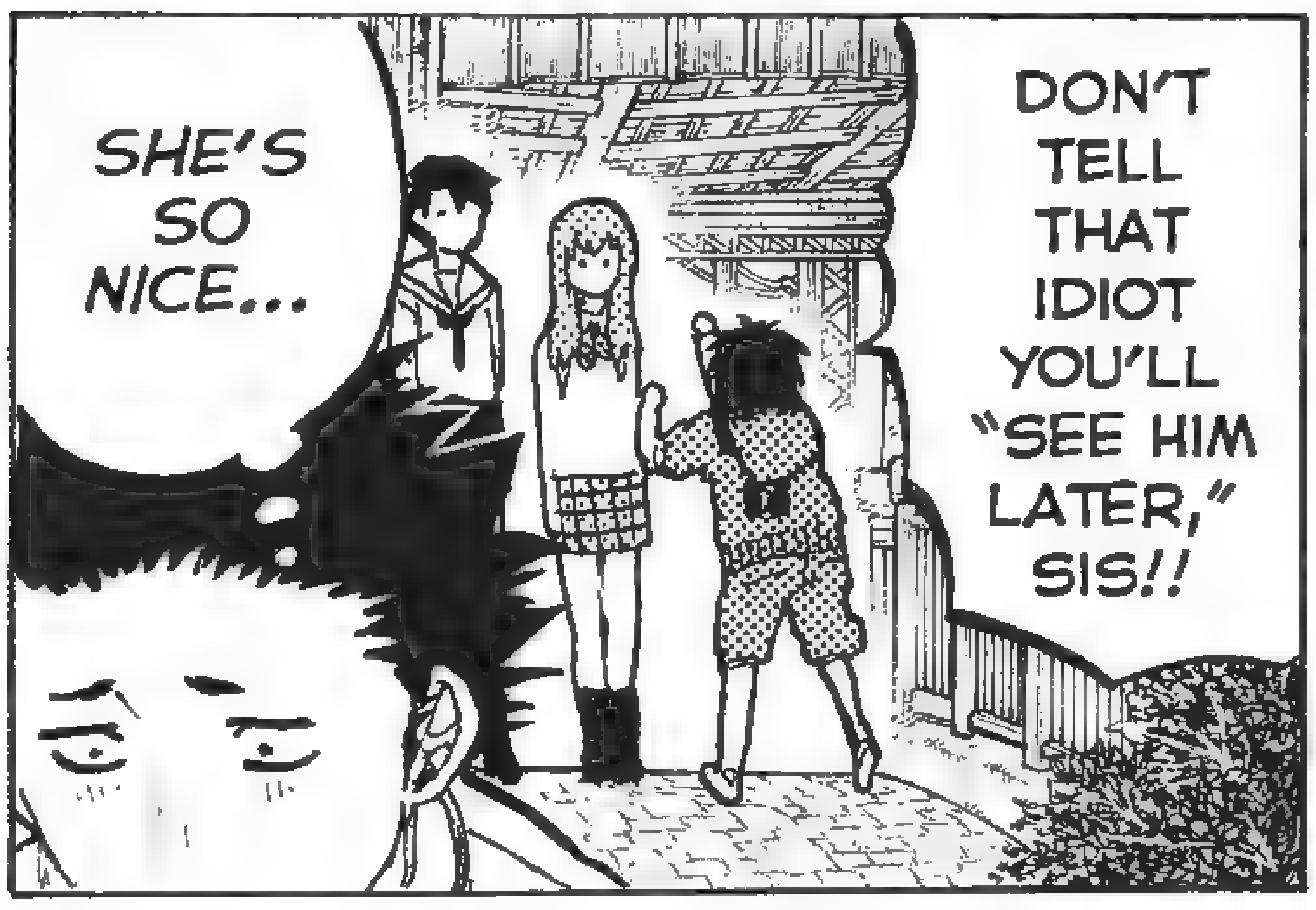
You should jump off a building today. It'll be a good idea
Realize we HATE you already!
TRAITOR
DIE BADLY!
AND WHO CARES ABOUT ME ANYWAY?
WHAP WHAP
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY FRIENDS BACK THEN.
TAP
?
RE-ALLY?

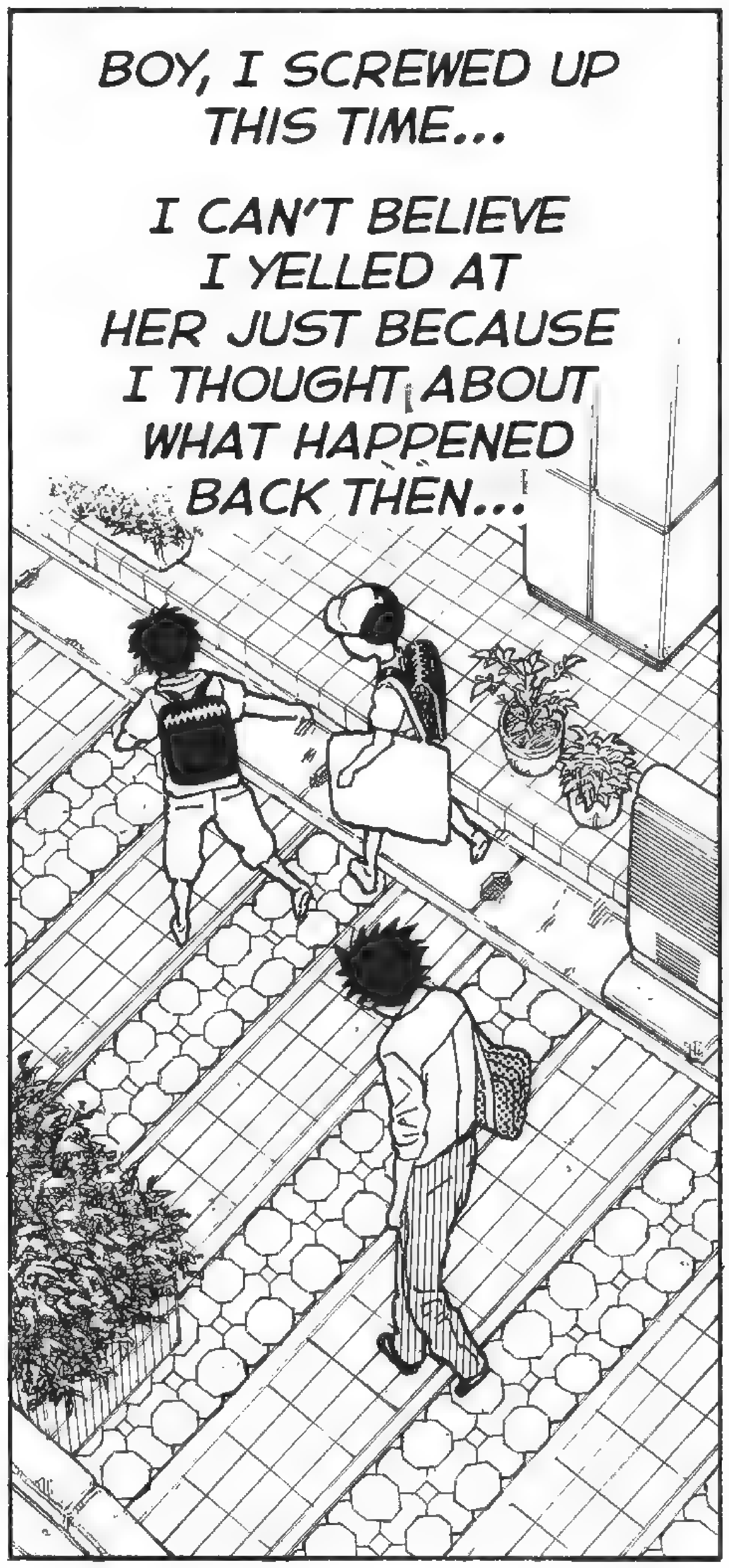
THERE'S NO ONE, ALL RIGHT?!
!

OH... NO, I'M SORRY...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP...
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
ポコ
BONK
GO HOME, YOU PIECE OF CRAP.
OH...
RIGHT...


THEN...
I GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME...




DON'T TELL THAT IDIOT YOU'LL "SEE HIM LATER," SIS!!
SHE'S SO NICE...


BOY, I SCREWED UP THIS TIME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I YELLED AT HER JUST BECAUSE I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN...

WELL, IT TRULY IS A PROBLEM WE CAN'T GET AROUND.
BECAUSE IT IS TRUE THAT YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, SHOYA.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MAKING OUR MOVIE!
I WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STAFF!
OH... YEAH...
WE'LL NEED ACTORS, AND SOMEONE TO HANDLE THE MUSIC...AND COSTUMES...
ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO HELP.
OH, I SPOKE TO THEM, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S BUSY.
HIROSHI, TAKASHI, AND... MASASHI HAVE TO WORK.
AND SATOSHI, HISASHI, AND YASUSHI ALSO HAVE TO WORK.
IS THERE ANYONE YOU KNOW WHO'S GOOD? LIKE FORMER CLASSMATES OR SOMETHING?

NO, THERE'S NO ONE !!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?
THE ONLY FRIEND I CAN ACTUALLY TALK TO ...
...IS YOU.

SORRY ...
...
I DON'T CARE WHAT MY OLD CLASSMATES ARE DOING...
KNOWING WHAT NISHIMIYA IS UP TO IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
MIKI'S BEEN THE SAME "HONORS STUDENT" SINCE WE GRADUATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
掃除当番
AND I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD OUT OF NAOKA SINCE THAT ONE TIME IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
YOU'RE A VIRGIN, AREN'T YOU?
AND AS FOR KAZUKI AND KEISUKE...
...I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THEM...

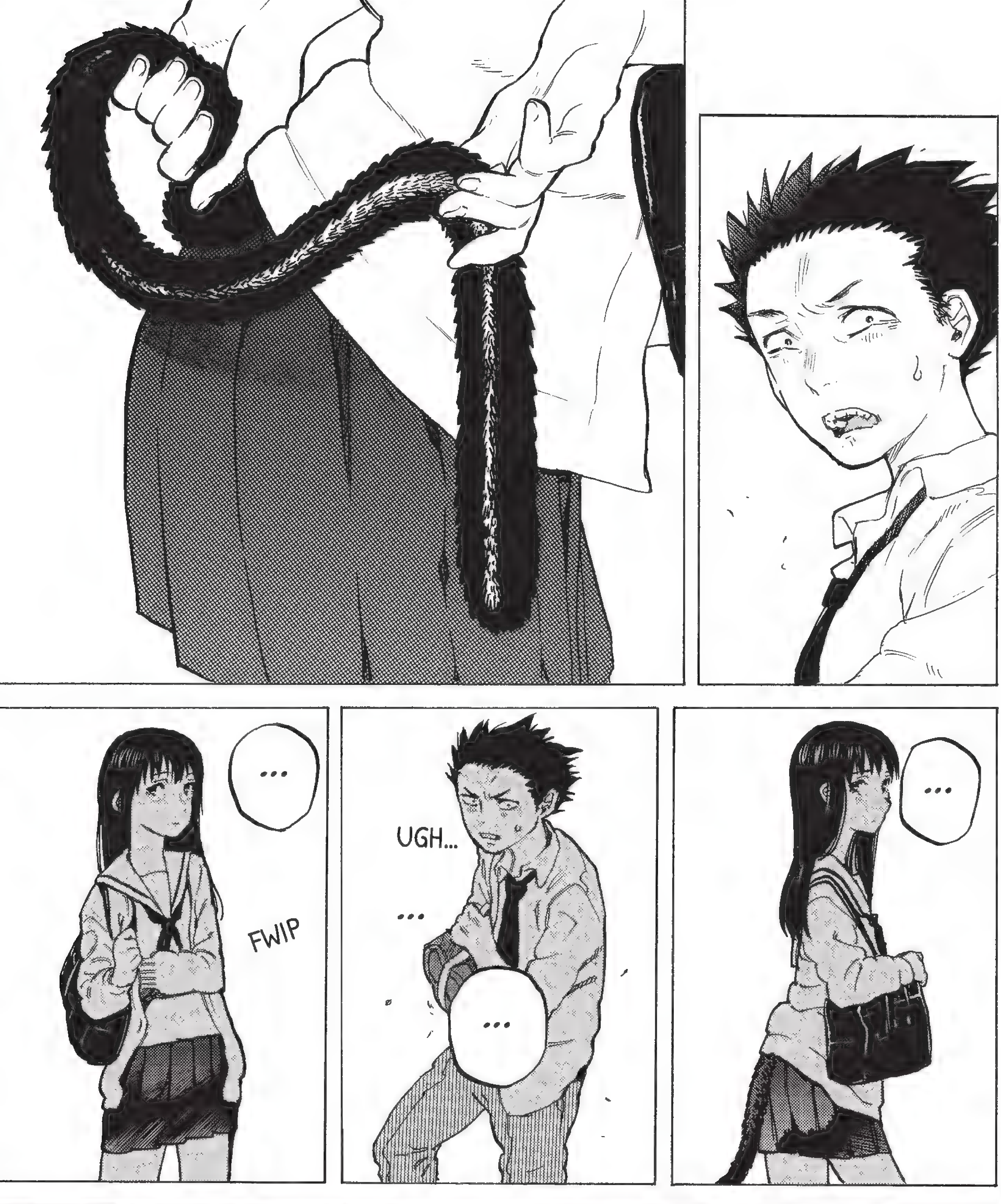
I DON'T CARE...
...WHAT ANY OF THOSE JERKS ARE DOING.
...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
I HAVEN'T EVEN SOLVED...
...MY OWN PROBLEMS...
HOW WOULD I EVEN "SOLVE" THIS ANYWAY?
MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM AGAIN?
NO THANKS.
I'LL PASS.

...WHY DOES NISHIMIYA EVEN AGREE TO SEE ME?
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER. ME AND NISHIMIYA ARE DIFFERENT.
I'LL CUT OFF MY TIES TO THE PAST...
THAT'S HOW I'LL SOLVE THINGS AND SAVE MYSELF.
EVEN IN THE FUTURE, I BET...
...I STILL WON'T CARE ABOUT THEM.
HAVE A COUPON!
THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T CARE.
I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM, THEIR FACES AND ALL.
I DON'T CARE.
I DON'T CARE.

FWISH

TAP
TAP
TAP
WAS THAT...
TAP
NAO...
...KA?
TAP
TAP
I DON'T CARE.
I DON'T CARE.
TAP
TAP
I DON'T CARE.
I DON'T CARE! I DON'T CARE!!!
TAP

I DON'T CARE!!
GOOD...
I WON!
GLANCE
屋内駐車場



YOU CAN'T MAKE ME...

...CARE ABOUT SEEING
YOU AGIAN!!

SHK...

CHAPTER 19: HOW A CAT FEELS

CAT EARS ?!
WHAT THE HECK ?
サラ
FWISH
UH... SHE'S COMING THIS WAY!!
SHK
SHK
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, NAOKA ?!

HERE, HAVE A COUPON.
30%OFF
HUH?
RUSTLE....
30%OFF
...
TURN
HERE, HAVE A COUPON.

…
GLANCE
MEOW-MEOW CLUB
THE FINEST KITTIES, WITH A MEOW!
WON'T YOU COME MEOW-MEOW WITH YOUR FAVORITE KITTEN?
1000 YEN/1 HR., 1 FREE DRINK
★ HOW TO GET HERE ★
STATION
I'M WAITING FOR MEE-YOU
30% OFF
MEOW-MEOW CLUB?!!
MEOW-MEOW CLUB?!!
"MEOW-MEOW" …
… MUTTER MUTTER
WHISPER

IS THAT SOME RAUNCHY JOINT?
NO!
...ISN'T IT PROBABLY, LIKE, A COSPLAY CLUB?
HMM, ONE HOUR FOR ¥1,000*, EH?
THAT'S PRETTY CHEAP, BUT IT'S A FAIRLY STANDARD PRICE FOR THIS AREA.
WHAP
WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?! SPIT IT OUT!!
WHAM
I GOT IT IN TOWN... FROM AN OLD CLASSMATE...
WAS IT A GUY?! ARE YOU FRIENDS?!!!
NO, IT WAS A GIRL... WE'RE NOT FRIENDS...
REALLY?!
SHE GAVE IT TO ME WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION... I WONDER WHY?
IT WAS KIND OF CREEPY...

*AROUND $10

SHE PROBABLY WANTS YOU TO COME TO THAT CLUB, RIGHT?
SO LET'S GO. THIS ONE'S ON ME...
...
NO...
CRUNCH
I'M NOT GOING.
IT'S AWKWARD BETWEEN US...
SERIOUSLY...
IN FACT, IT KIND OF HURTS JUST THINKING ABOUT HER...
I MEAN...

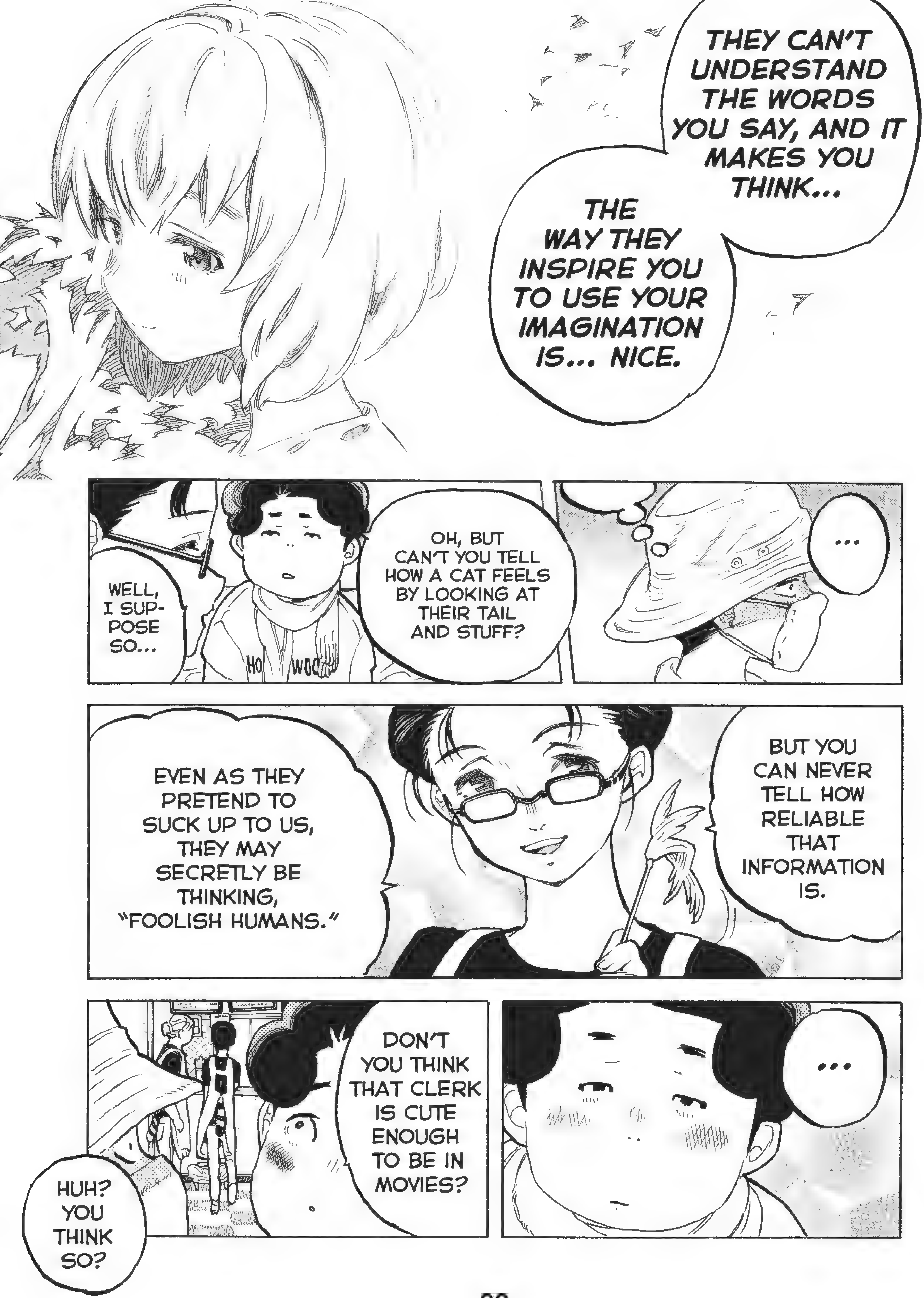
THERE'S NO WAY, RIGHT?!
ANYTHING BUT THAT ...
DOES NISHIMIYA REALLY NEED NAOKA IN HER LIFE?
UGGO.
...NOT A CHANCE.
OF COURSE, YOU COULD SAY THE SAME OF ME...
GIMME THAT!
MAYBE NAOKA HAS CHANGED, TOO...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I GOT THEM TOGETHER?
WHAT IF THEY COULD ALL BE FRIENDS?
WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?
SHOULD I EVEN HOPE FOR THAT?

I MEAN, THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T JUST WRITE OFF SOMETHING THAT COULD END UP HELPING NISHIMIYA WITHOUT MAKING SURE FIRST!
SO THAT MEANS, I SHOULD I TAKE ACTION!
MEOW-MEOW CLUB
RATTLE

WELCOME!
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE STAYING?
...
...ONE HOUR.
RIGHT THIS WAY.
...
HOLLY WO
...
HOLLY
NEOW
NEOW

I GUESS IT WAS A CAT CAFE, HUH?
YEAH...
...
BY THE WAY, IS THE GIRL IN QUESTION HERE...?
MA'AM ?
...DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT.
OH, SHE'S NOT?
FLOP
MEOW MEOW HEH HEH HEH...

ACHOO!!!!!
MEOW!
SHRP
YAARGH!!
ARE YOU ALLERGIC?
YES.
MY EYES ARE ALWAYS ITCHY TOO...
BUT THEY'RE SO CUTE I CAN'T HELP BUT PLAY WITH THEM.
BWAHA! AS LONG AS YOU HAVE LOVE AND A LITTLE MASOCHISM IN YOU, YOU CAN BEAT A LITTLE THING LIKE AN ALLERGY, CAN YOU NOT?
EXACTLY!
YOU KNOW HOW YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT CATS ARE THINKING?
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THEM.

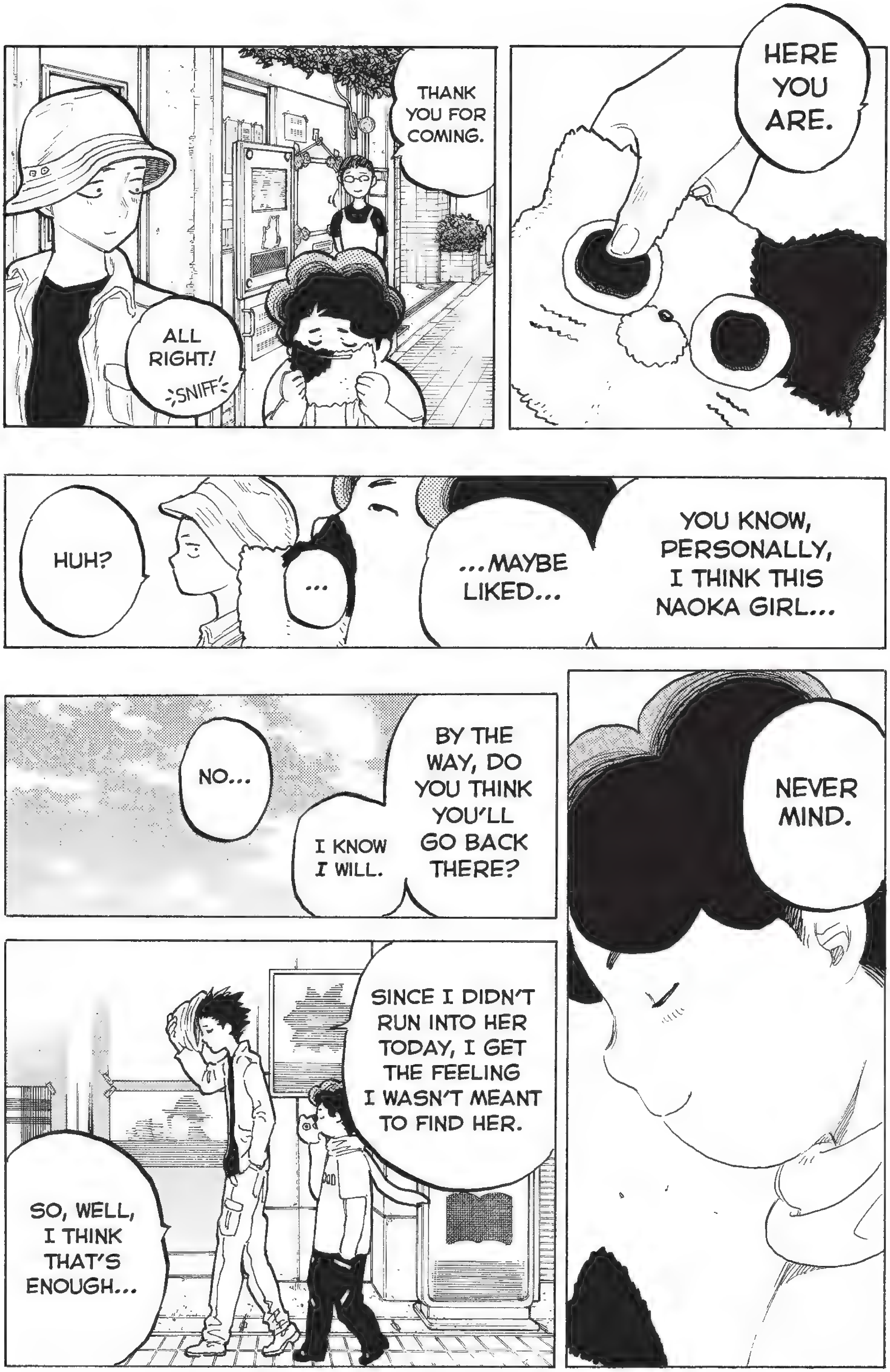

THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WORDS YOU SAY, AND IT MAKES YOU THINK...
THE WAY THEY INSPIRE YOU TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION IS... NICE.
...
OH, BUT CAN'T YOU TELL HOW A CAT FEELS BY LOOKING AT THEIR TAIL AND STUFF?
WELL, I SUPPOSE SO...
HO WOO
BUT YOU CAN NEVER TELL HOW RELIABLE THAT INFORMATION IS.
EVEN AS THEY PRETEND TO SUCK UP TO US, THEY MAY SECRETLY BE THINKING, "FOOLISH HUMANS."
...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT CLERK IS CUTE ENOUGH TO BE IN MOVIES?
HUH? YOU THINK SO?

ACHOO!!!!!
YARGH!
SORRY, CAN I BORROW THAT MASK?
AH!
MY DISGUISE!
SO? IT'S NOT LIKE THAT GIRL OR WHOEVER IS HERE.
YOU DO HAVE A POINT...
...
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THIS *NAOKA UENO* PERSON LIKE, ANYWAY?
MROW
I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HER THAT WELL...
ANYWAY, I CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT GIRL...
OF COURSE, THAT WASN'T ALWAYS THE CASE...

SHE WAS THE TYPE WHO TOOK CHARGE...
SHE WAS ATHLETIC AND SMART, TOO.
FOR SOME REASON, WE ENDED UP TOGETHER A LOT.
I'M STUCK WITH YOU AGAIN?!
GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
AND SHE HAD A BAD MOUTH, SO THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT SHE WAS PRETTY ANNOYING...
YOUR PEELING IS SO SLOPPY!!
JEEZ, JUST STOP PEELING, SHOYA!
SHK SHK SHK
AND, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HER GOOD LOOKS AND BRAINS...
A GUY ASKED ME OUT YESTERDAY.
...SHE WAS PRETTY POPULAR.
FWISH
OH, DID HE?
BUT SHE WAS HARD ON ME, SO...
CLEAN UP ALREADY, SHOYA!!
...WE USED TO FIGHT ALL THE TIME.
BRING IT, UGLY!!
THIS MEANS WAR!!

LOOKING BACK ON IT, I THINK I TALKED TO HER MORE THAN ANY OTHER GIRL...
特製
THEN, AFTER THAT, SOME STUFF HAPPENED...
...AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "STUFF?"
WELL... BAD STUFF.
I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SPEAK TO EACH OTHER AGAIN.

...AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
YOUR TIME IS UP. WOULD YOU LIKE AN EXTENSION?
OH... NO, THANKS.
IF YOU JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM TODAY, YOU WILL RECEIVE A KITTY POUCH TO MARK THE OCCASION.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?
BEE-BEEP
I WANT ONE!
TOMOHIRO... NAGATSUKA...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIR?
OH...
I THINK I'LL PASS.


HERE YOU ARE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
ALL RIGHT! SNIFF
YOU KNOW, PERSONALLY, I THINK THIS NAOKA GIRL...
...MAYBE LIKED...
...
HUH?
NEVER MIND.
BY THE WAY, DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GO BACK THERE?
I KNOW *I* WILL.
NO...
SINCE I DIDN'T RUN INTO HER TODAY, I GET THE FEELING I WASN'T MEANT TO FIND HER.
SO, WELL, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH...

I MEAN, THIS IS STILL NAOKA WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
...UNLIKE MIYOKO, SHE FLAT OUT HATED NISHIMIYA...
SURE, MAYBE IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO DECIDE I SHOULDN'T EVER GET THEM TOGETHER, BUT...
MAYBE I'D BE BETTER OFF WAITING UNTIL WE BUMP INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN...
HUFF
HUFF
UM! EXCUSE ME!!
?
THUMP THUMP

WE'RE ALSO...
...GIVING THESE OUT TO FIRST-TIME CUSTOMERS...
I'M SORRY I FORGOT.
OH, THANKS.
PLOP
OOPS!
I'M SORRY!
OH!
THAT'S OKAY!
I'LL GET IT.

HERE, SHOYA.
LUCKY YOU, EH?
YEAH.
THANK YOU.
サラ‥
FWISH
ドドドド
STOMP
SHOYA! SHOYA! SHOYA!
STOMP
STOMP
LOOK AT THIS! YOU GOTTA LOOK AT THIS!!

I FOUND IT INSIDE MY KITTY POUCH!!
I've always liked you.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
WH... WHOA?!
"ALWAYS"?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHOA!!
H-HEY, GOOD FOR YOU, MAN!
YEAH, I KNOW, RIGHT?! HUFF HUFF
SNIFF
I WONDER IF NISHIMIYA WOULD LIKE IT IF I GAVE THIS TO HER...

FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS!!
I've always liked you.
YOU ARE NOT DREAMING! THIS IS REAL!!
SOMEONE REALLY GAVE YOU THAT?
BUT OF COURSE.
THERE'S DEMAND OUT THERE FOR US TURD-HEADS TOO, YUZURU. WHAHA!
HUH?
NO, THERE'S NOT.
YEAH, THERE IS!!
JUST YOU COME ALONG WITH ME!
AND I'LL GET YOU...
...SOME NICE FOOTAGE FOR THAT CAMERA OF YOURS.

CHAPTER 20: REASON

GOOD WORK TODAY, LADIES.
RATTLE RATTLE
WHICH ONE IS SHE?
HUH? I DON'T SEE HER...
OH...
HUH?
YOU'RE THE GUY FROM THE OTHER DAY... WHAT WAS IT... TOMOHIRO?
RUS-TLE
HI AGAIN.
!
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME... WAS IT... YOU?
UM... IS YOUR FRIEND, ER...
WITH YOU... TODAY?
GLANCE GLANCE
DON'T WORRY. I CAME ALONE.

THANKS, UH...
FOR THIS, YOU KNOW?
FWIP
I've always liked you.
HOLLYWOO
OH... ABOUT THAT LETTER...
COULD WE JUST... FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT?
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE BASHFUL...
FOR I LOVE YOU AS WELL!
ギュ… SQUEEZE

GET YOUR DISGUSTING HANDS OFF ME!!
KEEP IT IN YOUR PANTS, FAT BOY!!
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD FALL FOR YOU?!

WOBBLE
...
THIS LETTER WASN'T FOR YOU.
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH SHOYA, RIGHT? DON'T TELL HIM, YOU GOT THAT?
SHOYA...? WAIT...
ARE YOU... NAOKA...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SIGH YOU RUINED MY WHOLE PLAN.
WHAT A CREEP!
I...I WAS JUST TESTING YOU...
TO SEE IF YOU WERE A SUITABLE MATCH FOR SHOYA...
HUH?

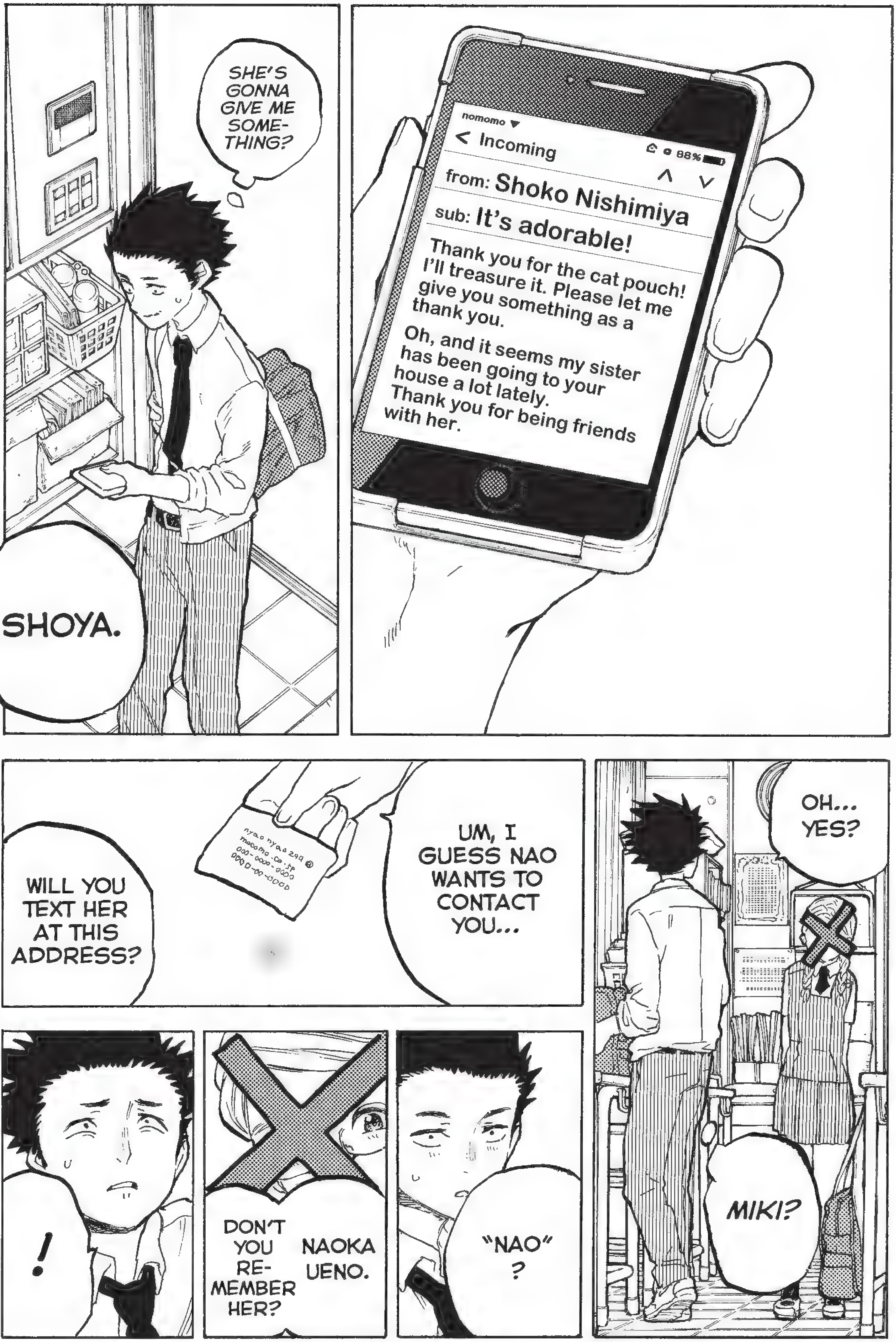
BUT THIS HAS MADE IT CLEAR.
SOMEONE WHO JUDGES PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR APPEARANCE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR SHOYA!
LLY WOOD
CERTAINLY, SHOYA IS A LITTLE BETTER LOOKING THAN I AM, BUT ON THE INSIDE, WE ARE THE SAME.
ESPECIALLY HOW WE TREASURE OUR BEST FRIENDS.
IN THAT CASE, HOW CAN YOU CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE PRACTICALLY THE SAME?
STATE YOUR REASON.
NONE REALLY. DO I EVEN NEED A REASON?
OH, YOU KNOW HIS EMAIL ADDRESS, RIGHT? TELL ME.
HUH? I DON'T THINK SO.
THAT IS PERSONAL INFORMATION.
...
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED A REASON TO LIKE SOMEONE...
BUT I THINK WHEN YOU HATE SOMEONE, IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE A REASON TO.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR MY REASONS, THEN HURRY UP AND WHIP OUT YOUR PHONE!!
YAAARGH!!
YOU'RE UGLY!!
YOU'RE SWEATY!!!!
YOU'VE GOT WEIRD HAIR!!
YOUR VOICE IS CREEPY!!
YARGH!! A SHAKEDOWN!! IT'S A SHAKEDOWN!!
HEY, IT'S NAOKA.
WHO'S THIS GUY?
AAAIIIEEE
WHOA, LOOK AT HIM GO.

ガタ
SHAKE
ガタ
SHAKE
ガタ
SHAKE
ガタ
SHAKE
PHEW, I GOT SOME GOOD FOOTAGE TODAY.
ガタガタ
SHAKE
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
ガタガタ
SHAKE
ガタガタ
SHAKE
IT WAS AN UN-EVENTFUL DAY.
ガタ
ガタ
SHAKE
BUT YOU'RE SHAKING AN AWFUL LOT...
ガタ
SHAKE
ガタ
HEY, ARE WE GONNA BE ABLE TO USE THAT FOOTAGE IN THE MOVIE?
WE'RE NOT USING IT!!
"MOVIE"?
YEAH, TOMOHIRO IS...
...MAKING ONE.
HUH.
YAAAA
SOUNDS FUN.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YUZURU...

DO YOU THINK NISHIMIYA...
...WOULD WANT THIS?
YOU WANT TO GIVE THIS TO MY SISTER?
YEAH.
WHERE'S MINE?
OH, SORRY. I ONLY HAVE THE ONE.
OH, WHAT IS IT? LET ME SEE THAT.
OH, HOW CUTE!
I WANT ONE OF THESE, TOO.
HEY, IT *IS* CUTE.
CAN I HAVE THIS, SHOYA?
KITTY!
IT'S NOT FAIR SHOKO GETS ONE AND I DON'T!!

SORRY... I ALREADY DECIDED I WAS GIVING IT TO NISHIMIYA.
...
WHY, OF ALL THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS, DID YOU CHOOSE NISHIMIYA-SAN?
?
DO I... NEED A REASON?
ニーヤ
GRIN
WHAT?
キーンコーンカーンコーン
DING-DONG
DING-DONG



nomomo
< Incoming
from: Shoko Nishimiya
sub: It's adorable!

Thank you for the cat pouch! I'll treasure it. Please let me give you something as a thank you.

Oh, and it seems my sister has been going to your house a lot lately. Thank you for being friends with her.

88%
SHE'S GONNA GIVE ME SOMETHING?
SHOYA.
OH... YES?
MIKI?
UM, I GUESS NAO WANTS TO CONTACT YOU...
WILL YOU TEXT HER AT THIS ADDRESS?
"NAO"?
NAOKA UENO.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER HER?
!

UM... I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU TELL HER NO?
OH, I SEE. YOU MUST BE BUSY, RIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE A JOB?
I'LL TELL NAO FOR YOU.
THIS IS FOR THE BEST. I KNOW IT.
OH.
AFTER SCHOOL TODAY...
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOUR HELP WITH.
OH, SURE.
WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME BY THE SCHOOL GATE?

WHAT'S TAKING MIKI SO LONG?
YOU CAN GO HOME, YOU KNOW, TOMOHIRO.
I'M THE ONE SHE ASKED FOR HELP.
...
SOMETHING'S FISHY...
MIKI IS CONNECTED TO NAOKA, RIGHT?
I DON'T TRUST THAT MIKI WOMAN.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
MATH 3
!!
I'M MAKING A RUN FOR IT, YA-SHO!
YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, TOO!!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SEE YA!
LATER, MAN...

WHY ARE YOU HANGING OUT WITH THAT LOSER?

NAO-KA...
HUH.
YOU REALLY HAVE GOTTEN TALLER.
OH... UH... UM...
LONG TIME...
NO SEE...
THIS WAS YOUR DOING, MIKI!
HUH? BUT WE SAW EACH OTHER THE OTHER DAY!
I WAS THE ONE WITH THE CAT EARS.
I WAS SURE YOU'D CALL ME OUT ON THOSE.
OH, THAT?!
THAT WAS YOU?
WELP, I'D BETTER GET GOING...
NICE RUNNING INTO YOU...

OKAY...
LET'S GO HOME.
OUR HOUSES ARE IN THE SAME DIRECTION, RIGHT?
GO! GO!
...
シャアアァ
ZOOM
...
WHAT THE HECK? WHAT DO YOU WANT, NAOKA?

PLUS, DIDN'T YOU... HATE ME?
HEY, SHOYA...
DO YOU HATE ME?
...
OH, I DON'T KNOW...NOT REALLY...
HUH...
THE SHOYA I KNEW...
...WOULD TELL YOU *STRAIGHT UP* IF HE HATED YOU.

OH!
HUH?
ISN'T THAT ...
...NISHIMIYA?
Y... YEAH.
SHE HASN'T CHANGED MUCH, HAS SHE?
LIKE, SHE'S STILL ALL ALONE.
RIGHT?

HUH? ISN'T THAT A POUCH FROM OUR CAFE?
SO *SHE* CAME THERE? UGH!
CREEPY!
★Flores★
Plants
I GAVE THAT TO HER.

LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE A DIRTY MOUTH, HUH?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK LIKE THAT ANYMORE, OKAY?
YOU'VE CHANGED, SHOYA.
IN A WAY I DON'T LIKE.
STOP THE BIKE.

CHAPTER 25: PRETEND FRIENDS

ZOOM
ジャアアア
STOP.
ZOOM
ジャーアアア
...
COME ON, STOP!
ZOOM
アア
...

...WHY AREN'T YOU STOPPING?
I SAID STOP!
ZOOM
...
...
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
WAHHA?!!
WOBBLE

KRASH
ムク
RISE
...
したたたた
STEP
TEP
TEP
TEP
NAO...
...KA
!
NAO-
KA!
HANG
ON!

FWISH
LONG TIME NO SEE, NISHIMIYA-SAN!
?
TEP
TEP
!
!!
NAO-KA!
!
GRAB

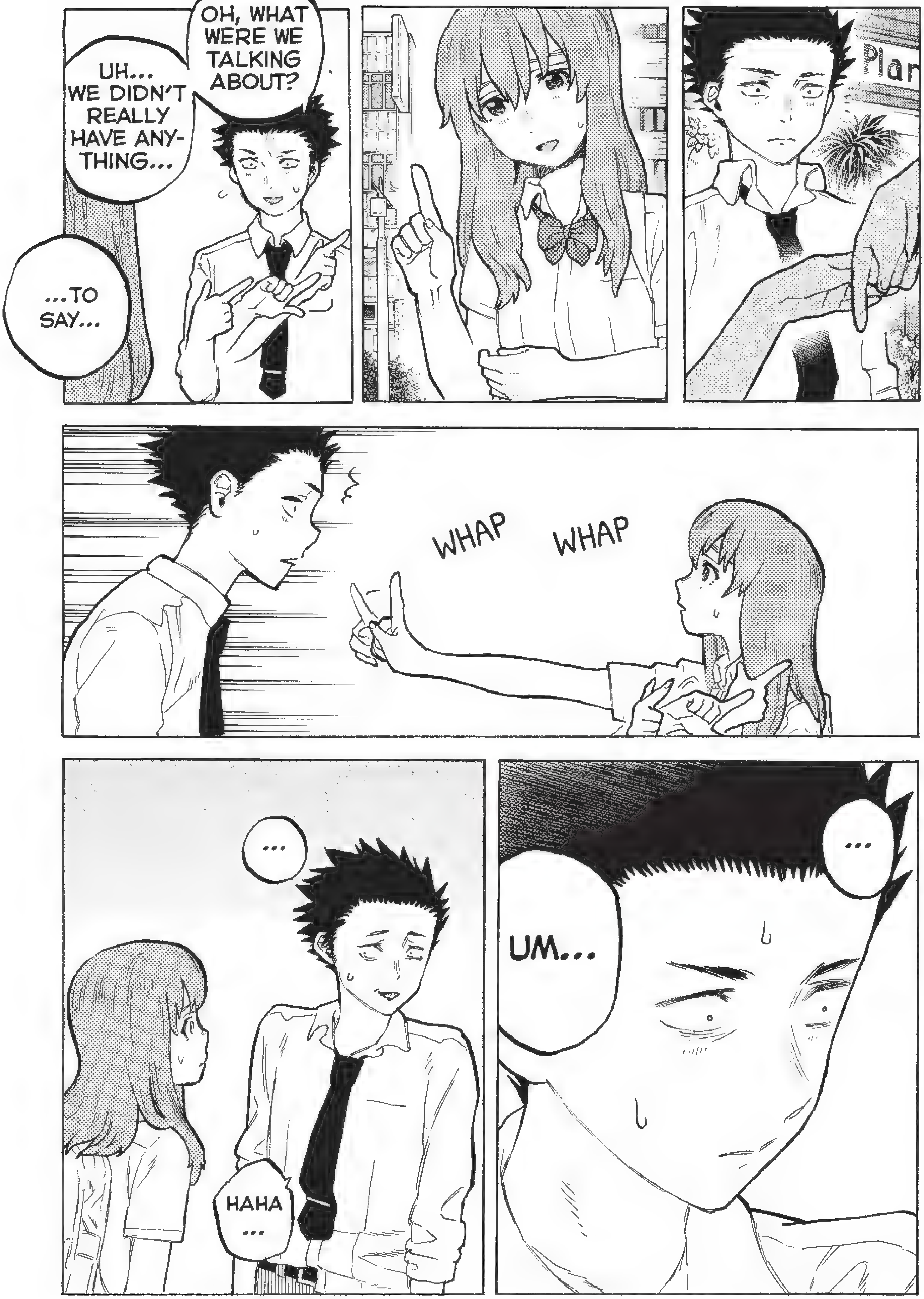
WHAT, YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE?
!
KLANK
カリタ
HERE.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO TOSS IT AROUND FOR FUN ...
...LIKE YOU USED TO?
...
SORRY, NISHIMIYA.
GRAB

NO WAY! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME, SHOYA!
は HA
は HA
YOU USED TO BE SOOO INTERESTED IN THESE AND NOW YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE SORRY?
ALL I CAN SAY IS, "UM, WHAT?"
AFTER HOW BAD YOU DISSED HER?
は HA
は HA
SERIOUSLY, I DON'T GET WHAT IS GOING ON HERE.
SO WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP THESE DAYS, YOU TWO?
は HA
YOU'RE KIND OF CREEPING ME OUT.
HA は
...
W-WE'RE FRIENDS NOW... THAT'S WHY...
LISTEN HERE...
I HEARD YOU'RE IN CONTACT WITH MIYOKO NOW, TOO!
WHAT THE HECK HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU, SHOYA?
は HA
は HA

はははは
HA
HA
FIRST THE FAT KID WITH THE AFRO, THEN MIYOKO, AND NOW NISHIMIYA?
THE OLD SHOYA NEVER WOULD HAVE HUNG OUT WITH THESE LOSERS IN A MILLION YEARS!
ARE YOU FORCING YOURSELF TO HANG OUT WITH THEM?
はははは
HA
HA
HA
HA
はは
HA
HA
...
...
はははは
HA
HA
HA
HA
...

I BUMPED INTO HER JUST NOW...
WHAP
はははは
HA HA HA HA
...
SORRY, NISHIMIYA-SAN. I'LL LET YOU GET BACK TO YOUR... SHOPPING, WAS IT?
HERE YOU GO! LET'S HANG OUT SOMETIME.
HAHAHA! HILARIOUS!
...


OH, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
UH... WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING...
...TO SAY...
Plan
WHAP
WHAP
...
UM...
...
HAHA ...

WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
...
SORRY ...
...I THINK...
I'M GONNA HEAD HOME FOR TODAY...
KLANK
SEE YA...
...

SMILE
DO I REALLY HAVE TO TELL HER?
IT'S JUST GOING TO HURT HER, RIGHT?
YEAH... PLUS, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S WORTH HEARING IN THE FIRST PLACE...
ARE YOU FORCING YOURSELF TO HANG OUT WITH THEM?
"FORCING"? I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF...
WHY WOULD SHE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

OH...
NAO...
SKREE
...
ARE YOU CRYING?
I'M NOT CRYING. I JUST LAUGHED TOO HARD...
UPSY-DAISY.
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
LET'S GO!
SO SHE WAITED FOR ME?
WHAT'S NAOKA'S DEAL, ANYWAY? DID SHE TRACK ME DOWN JUST TO CAUSE TROUBLE? FOR WHAT?

IT'S NO USE. THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE LESS SENSE SHE MAKES...
AND JUST LOOKING AT HER FACE GIVES ME A HEADACHE...
I DON'T NEED HER! I DON'T NEED THE PERSON KNOWN AS "NAOKA" IN MY LIFE!
...BUT HERE I AM, CHAUFFEURING HER AROUND...
SO...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN GOING OUT?

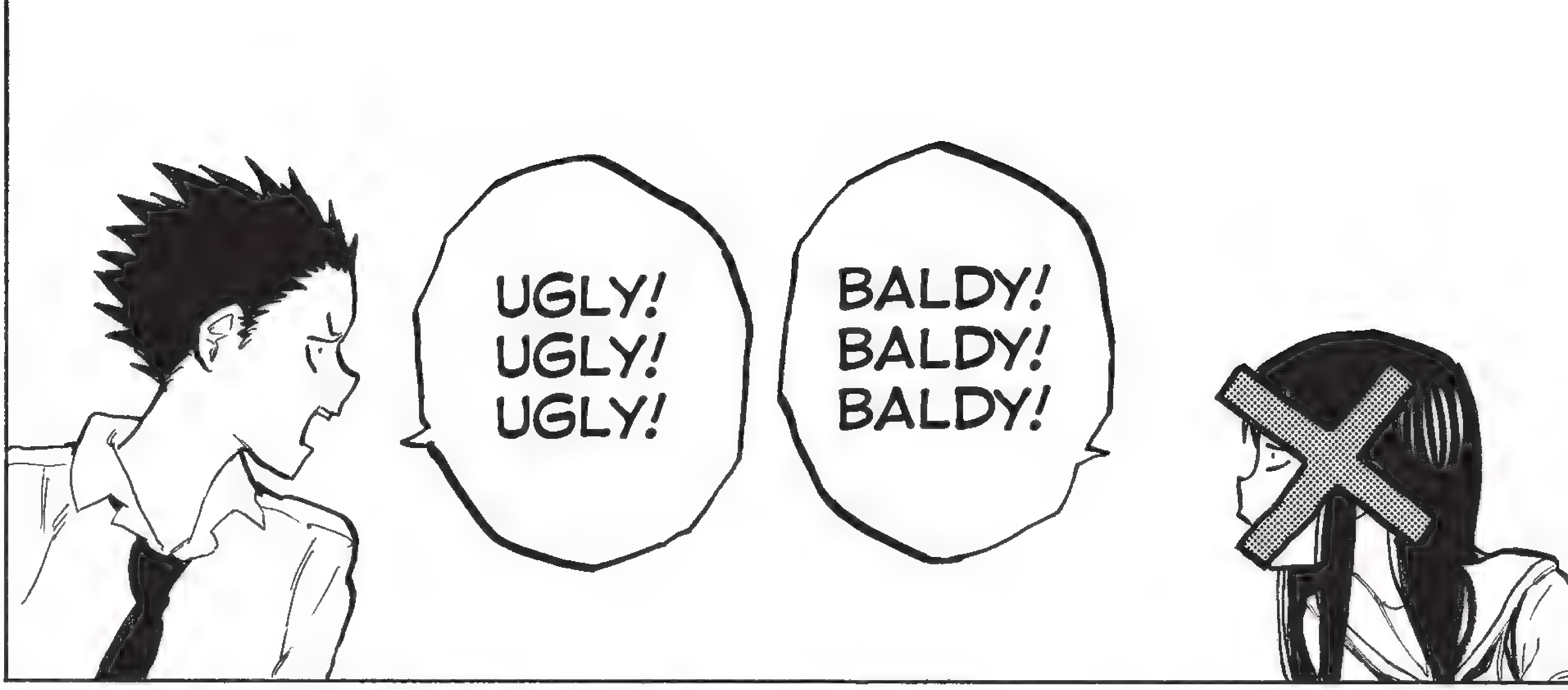
G...
GOING OUT?! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!! WE'RE NOT!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU WE'RE ONLY FRIENDS?!
YAY, NOW HE'S PISSED.
AHA... THEN I GUESS I CRIED FOR NOTHING...
HMM?
SO... HOW'D YOU TWO GET BACK IN TOUCH?
...I REALLY REGRETTED WHAT I DID TO HER...
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... SO I TRACKED HER DOWN AND APOLOGIZED.

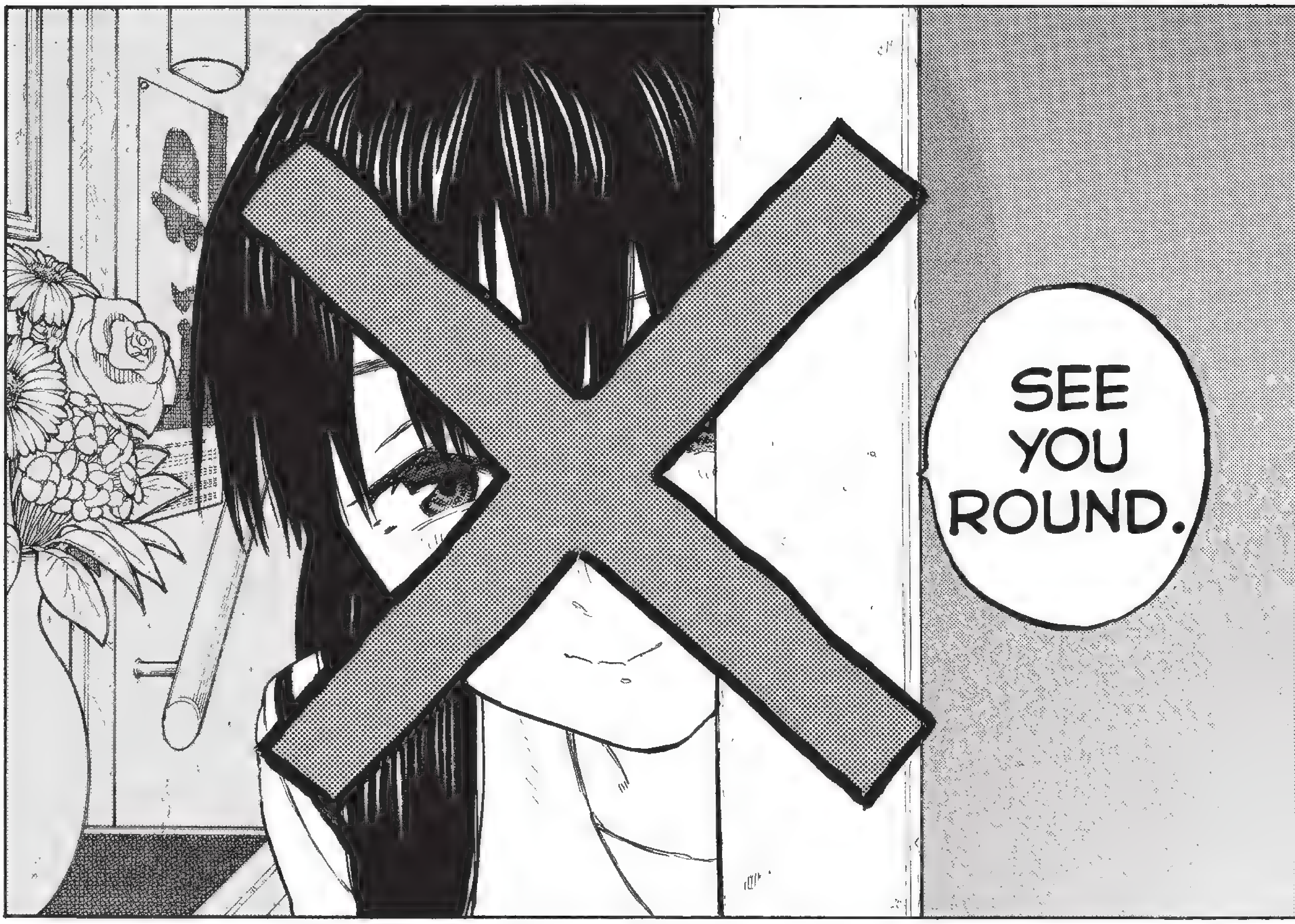
...ARE YOU SERIOUS?
A PUNK LIKE YOU?
...
I CONTACTED MIYOKO...
...BECAUSE I WANTED TO BRING HER AND SHOKO TOGETHER.
SINCE SHOKO HAD TO CHANGE SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF ME...
I WANTED TO GIVE HER BACK ALL THE POSSIBILITIES I TOOK FROM HER.
AND SHE ACTUALLY BECAME FRIENDS WITH MIYOKO...
...SO I WENT TO YOUR CAFE.
IT WAS STUPID...
...BUT I THOUGHT THERE WAS A CHANCE YOU AND SHOKO COULD BE FRIENDS, TOO...
NO WAY!
I HATE NISHIMIYA!
I KNOW. I ALREADY GAVE UP ON THAT.

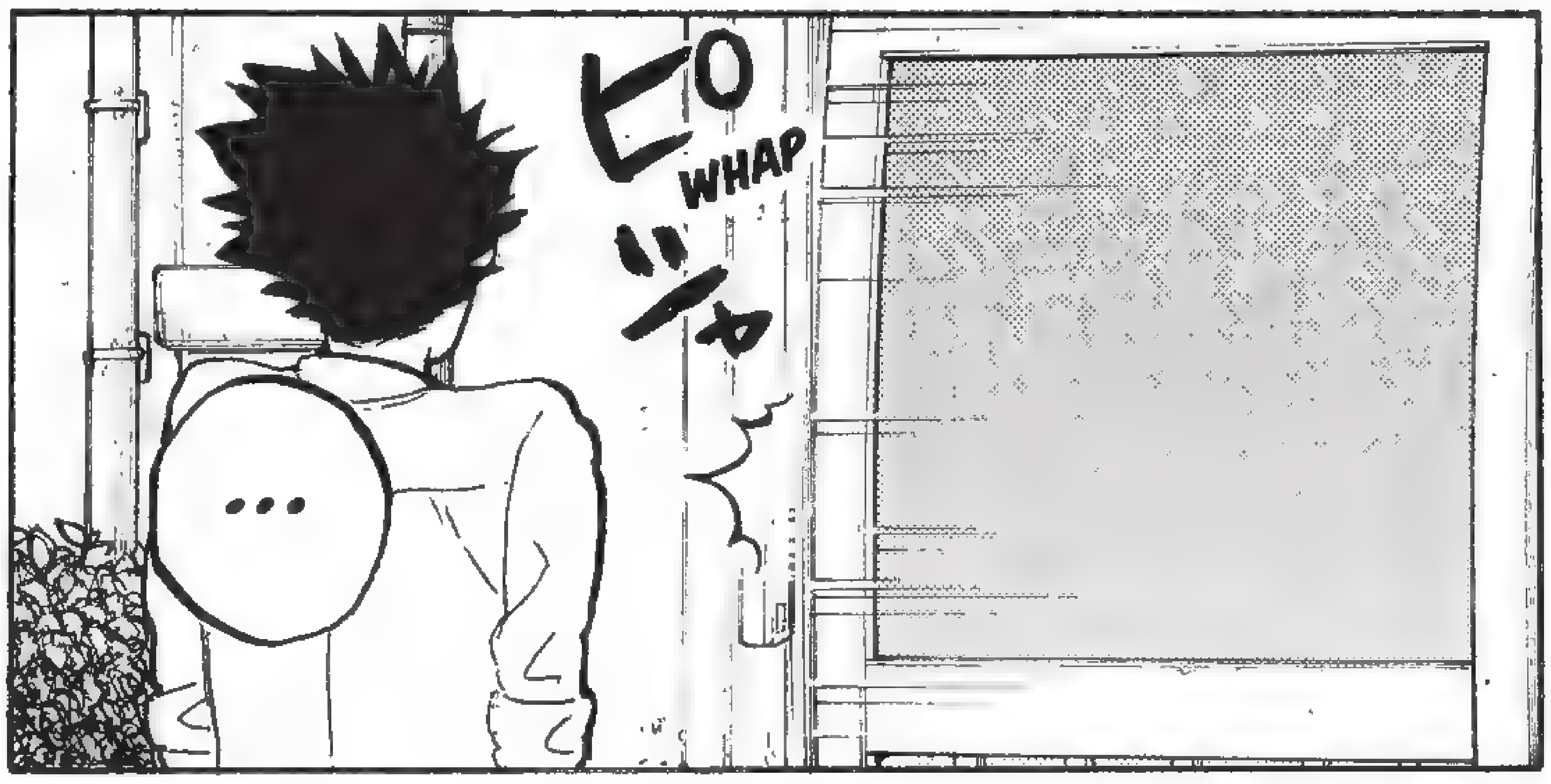
BUT THAT'S JUST "PRETEND FRIENDS," ISN'T IT?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PRETEND"?
IF YOU HAVE TO WORK TO GET PEOPLE TOGETHER BEFORE THEY CAN BE FRIENDS...
...THAT ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I'D CALL A CLOSE BOND.

SKREEK
WE'RE HERE.
THIS IS YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?
THANKS.
CAN I HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?
...
NO.
SHO-YA...
DO YOU HATE ME?

YEAH.
ガラ RATTLE
EH HEH HEH.
SEE YOU LATER.
BALDY.
SHUT UP!
UGLY!


BALDY! BALDY! BALDY!
UGLY! UGLY! UGLY!


SEE YOU ROUND.

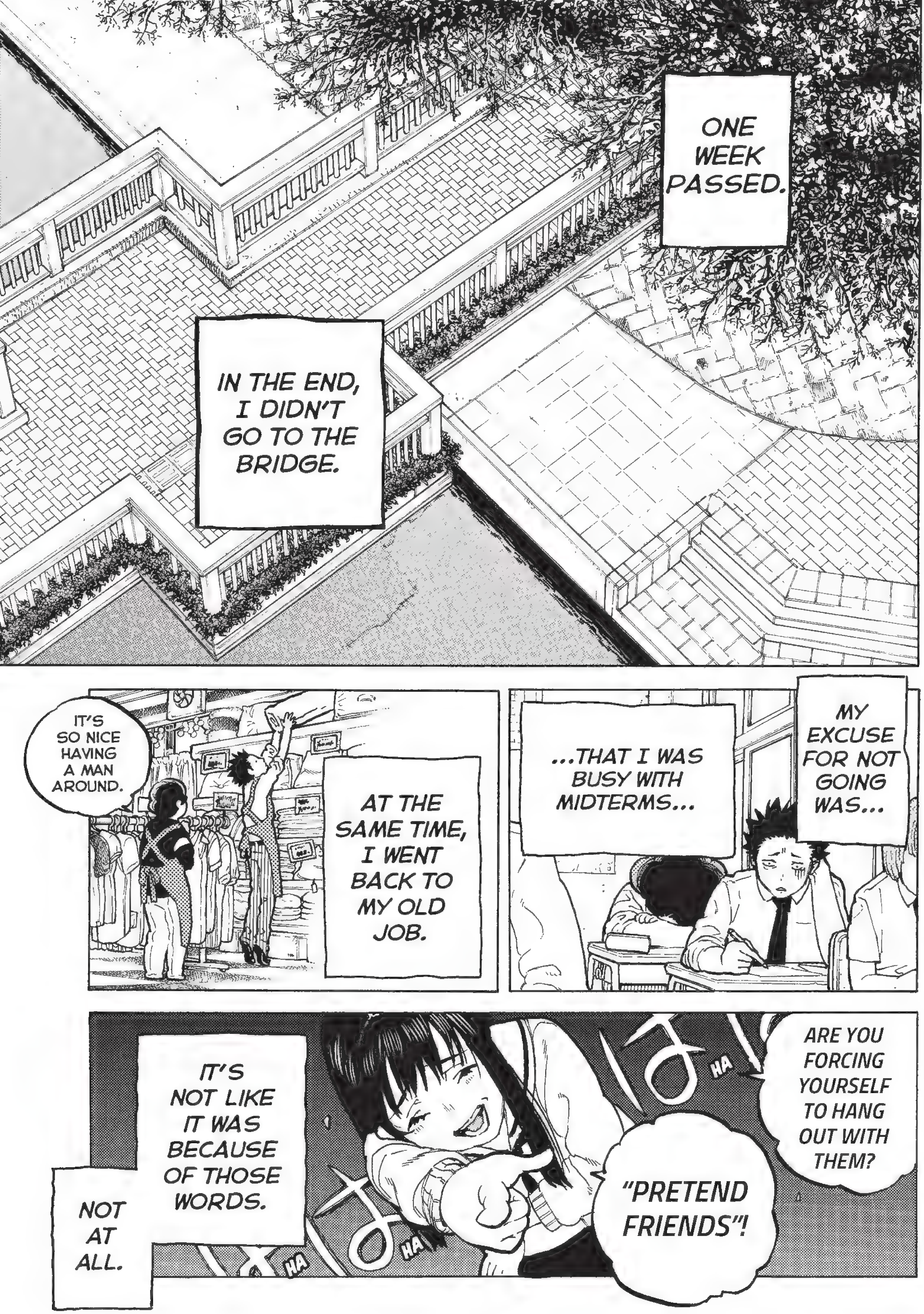


WHAT IS HER PROBLEM?

I MEAN, TOMORROW IS TUESDAY...
WELL, WHATEVER. I'LL HIT THE SACK EARLY TONIGHT...
I'LL GO MEET SHOKO...
...EXPLAIN TO HER WHAT HAPPENED TODAY AND...
...
...
DON'T WORRY, SIS. I'M SURE HE'LL BE HERE SOON.

OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
DID YOU BUY THAT THANK YOU PRESENT FOR SHOYA YESTERDAY?
SMILE!
ニッコオ!
OOH!
HUH?
WHAT A WEIRD FACE...
THAT'S ANOTHER NEW ONE TO ME!

CHAPTER 22: I WANT TO KNOW


ONE WEEK PASSED.
IN THE END, I DIDN'T GO TO THE BRIDGE.
MY EXCUSE FOR NOT GOING WAS...
...THAT I WAS BUSY WITH MIDTERMS...
AT THE SAME TIME, I WENT BACK TO MY OLD JOB.
IT'S SO NICE HAVING A MAN AROUND.
ARE YOU FORCING YOURSELF TO HANG OUT WITH THEM?
"PRETEND FRIENDS"!
HA
HA
HA
IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS BECAUSE OF THOSE WORDS.
NOT AT ALL.

KLANG
カラン
KLANG
カラン
OH, YUZURU.
SHOYA'S OVER THERE.
YO.
UM...
YEAH?
...

HEY, SHOYA. ARE YOU SEEING ANYONE RIGHT NOW?
...NO. WHY?
THEN, IS THAT NAOKA PERSON...
...A FRIEND?
HUH? WHAT? WHERE'D YOU GET THAT IDEA?
WE'RE CLASSMATES! JUST OLD CLASSMATES!
SHE'S NOT A "FRIEND." SHE'S SOMETHING BELOW THAT. LIKE, JUST ANOTHER FACE IN THE CROWD? YOU KNOW? SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WAS IT SHOKO? DID SHE TELL YOU TO ASK THAT?
カラーカラー
KLANG KLANG
NO, I WAS JUST PERSONALLY INTERESTED.
ALWAYS LIKED

CHOMP
ボリボリ
KRUNCH KRUNCH
KLICK KLICK
...
PFFT HAHA HA!
HEY...
DID YOU DO WHATEVER YOU CAME FOR?
WELL, NOT YET, BUT I GUESS IT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME.
OH... REALLY ...?
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY BACK.
YEAH.

HUH?
IS THAT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
OH...
GOTTA RUN!
WHO'S THAT?
A KID WHO LIVES AROUND HERE...

WHADDA YOU WANT?
HE-HEH...
WELL, UM... YOU SEE...
I CAME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU LAST TIME...
YOU KNOW HOW YOU...
KIND OF STARTED BEING OSTRACIZED IN 6TH GRADE?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
...I WAS JUST THINKING...
...HOW I WISHED I HAD...
...TALKED TO YOU.
LIKE WHEN WE GRADUATED MIDDLE SCHOOL...
AND I... KIND OF REGRET NOT DOING IT?

SO I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS... SORRY?
...
有機 みかん
...

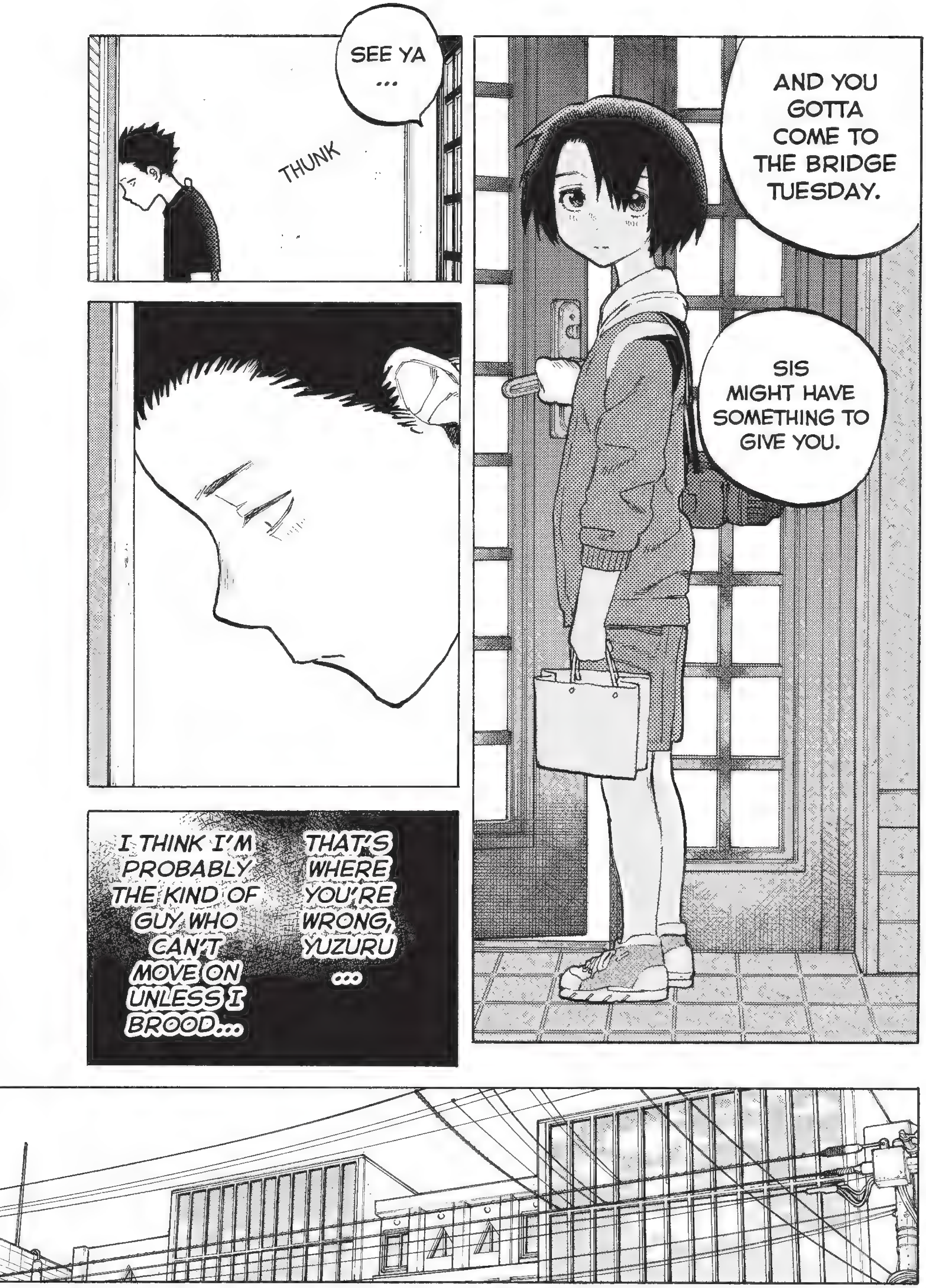
FORGET ME!! SHOKO'S THE ONE YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO!!
YOU USED TO BADMOUTH HER ALL THE TIME, RIGHT?!
NOT TO MENTION WHAT YOU DID LAST WEEK!
APOLOGIZE TO SHOKO, AND IF SHE FORGIVES YOU...
THEN, I'LL ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY, TOO!
HUH?!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? YOU'RE REALLY CREEPING ME OUT NOW...
I ONLY WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU. WHERE DOES NISHIMIYA FIT INTO THIS?!
WHAT, DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HER GUARDIAN OR SOMETHING?
KLAK
KLAK
I DON'T WANT NISHIMIYA'S FORGIVENESS!
I WANT YOURS!
...
SIGH
I JUST WANTED... TO GET BACK...
OUR TIME TOGETHER...
THE TIME NISHIMIYA TOOK FROM US!

CHAK
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.
...
NISHIMIYA MIGHT FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU ON THE INSIDE, YOU KNOW.
SHE'S GOOD AT THOSE POLITE SMILES.

THUNK
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.
AAAAAH...
SKRITCH SKRITCH SKRITCH
...AAH!

SHO-YA.
THAT POLITE SMILE OF HERS IS JUST A HABIT.
SIS USES IT ON ME, TOO.
SO DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU. OKAY?
IN FACT, SHE'S BECOME A LOT MORE EXPRESSIVE SINCE YOU SHOWED UP.
I THINK IT'S A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
YUZU-RU...
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TRYING TO CHEER YOU UP ANYMORE...
...THEN STOP ALL THIS BROODING.


AND YOU GOTTA COME TO THE BRIDGE TUESDAY.
SIS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU.
SEE YA ...
THUNK
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, YUZURU ...
I THINK I'M PROBABLY THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN'T MOVE ON UNLESS I BROOD...

HUH ?
YOU NEED NAO'S EMAIL ADDRESS?
SEE? I TOLD YOU YOU'D NEED IT, SHOYA.
HERE YOU GO.
GOOD LUCK!
?
THANKS.
...
TAP
TAP
SUB: TO NAOKA
TO NAOKA. IT'S ME, SHOYA.
SORRY I MADE THINGS AWKWARD YESTERDAY.
I THOUGHT I WAS TALKING SENSE AT THE TIME, BUT I WASN'T IN ANY POSITION TO TALK LIKE THAT.

SO PLEASE JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID.
THANKS FOR COMING.
SEE YOU NEXT TIME.
SEND
NOW THEN ...
JINGA-LING
THAT WAS FAST!
WHAP

sub: "Next time"?

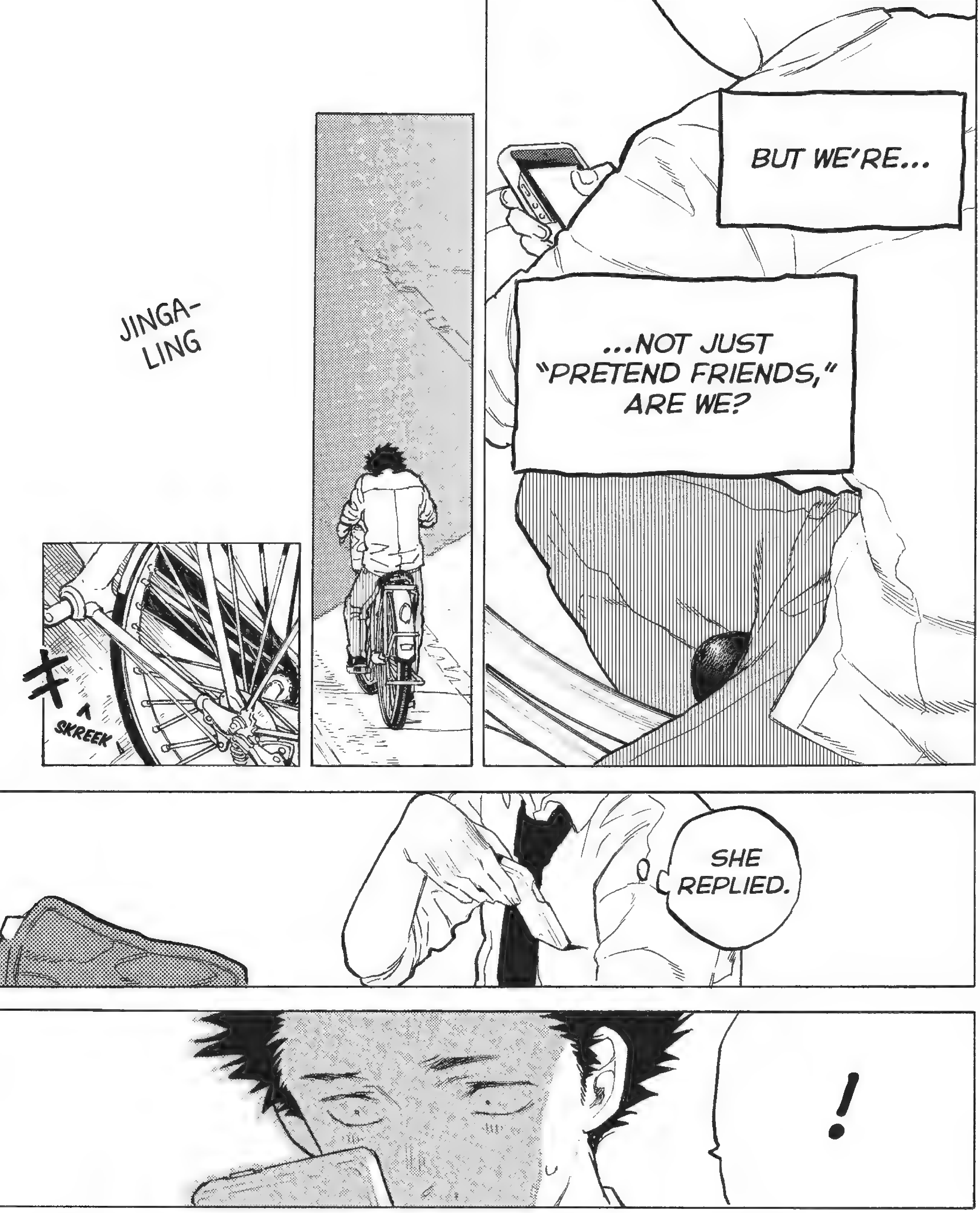
Huh?
I was gonna come back no matter what you said!! Later!

"LATER" ...
...WOW.
...

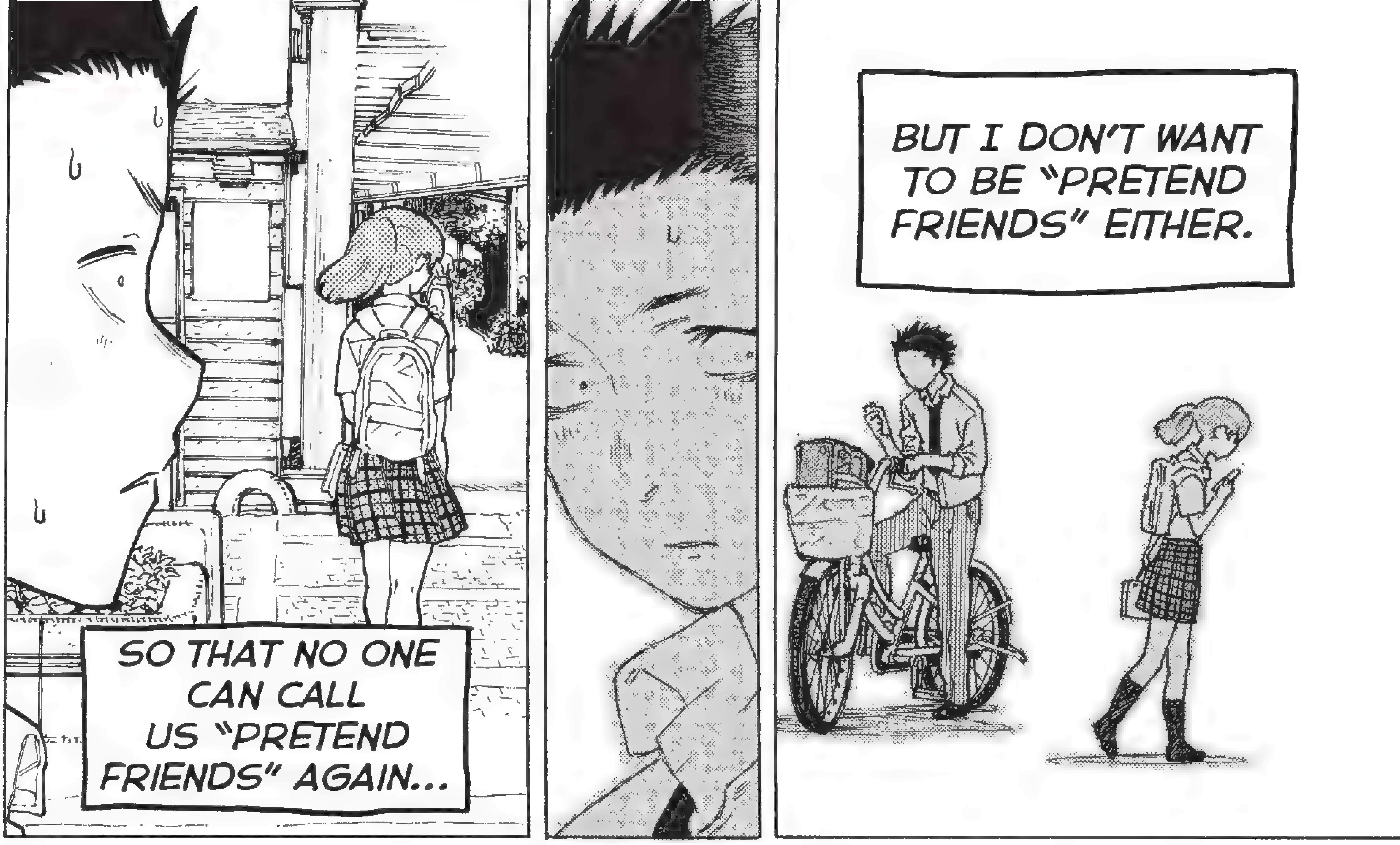
SHO-KO...
IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF A TEST OR MY JOB THAT I COULDN'T COME TO THE BRIDGE TO SEE YOU THE OTHER DAY.
IT WAS BECAUSE I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU SMILED AT ME.
I WANT TO KNOW... WHAT IT IS YOU'RE THINKING.
"WHAT?"
"WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"
OH.
HEY THERE, SHOYA.

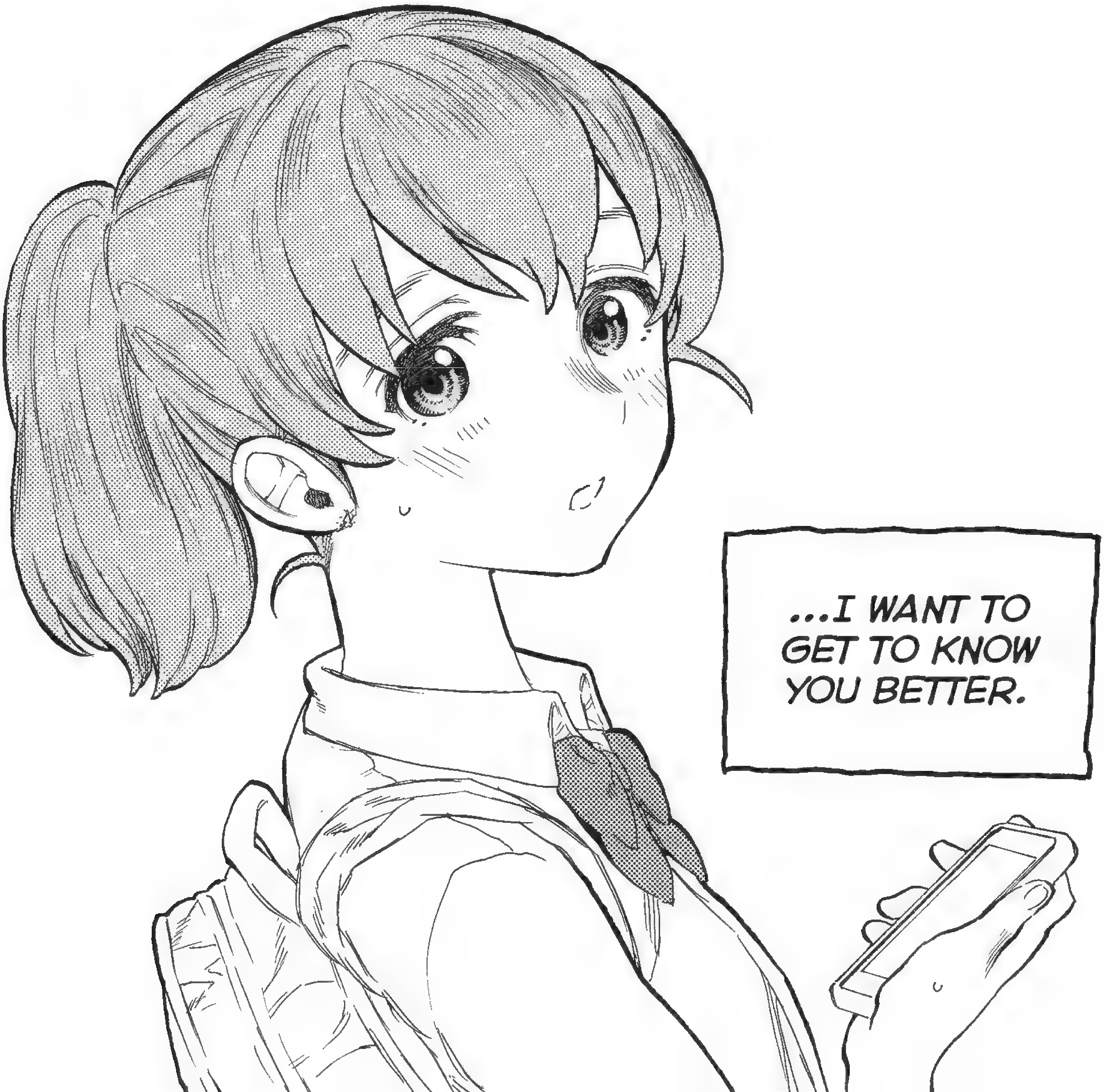
WHERE'S SHOKO?
SHE JUST LEFT BECAUSE HER STOMACH WAS HURTING.
WHAT? AW, MAN...
OH... IS SHE OKAY?
OH, I THINK IT WAS A LIE ANYWAY.
HUH?
A LIE?
OH, I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU RUN DOWN TO THE BAKERY BY THE STATION AND BUY SOME BREAD, SHOYA?
HUH? WHY?
TO FEED THE FISH! SIS LEFT, SO THE FISH ARE STARVING!
WHAT? WHY DO I HAVE TO—
JUST GO ALREADY!
AND IT HAS TO BE FROM THE BAKERY BY THE STATION! THAT'S THEIR FAVORITE!
WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT!
グイ SHOVE
HUH... SO SHOKO'S NOT HERE...
THIS MAKES TWO WEEKS SINCE WE'VE TALKED...

SKREE
FWIP
...
TO NISHIMIYA.
IS YOUR STOMACH ALL RIGHT?
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY AT THE BRIDGE TODAY.
YOU KNOW WHEN YOU WANTED TO KNOW WHAT NAOKA SAID?
WELL, THIS IS WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT US:
SHE ASKED IF I WAS "FORCING MYSELF" TO HANG OUT WITH YOU GUYS.
AND SAID WE WERE ONLY "PRETEND FRIENDS."
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?


BUT WE'RE...
...NOT JUST "PRETEND FRIENDS," ARE WE?
JINGA-LING
キ
SKREEK
SHE REPLIED.
!

I WAS WONDERING THE SAME THING.

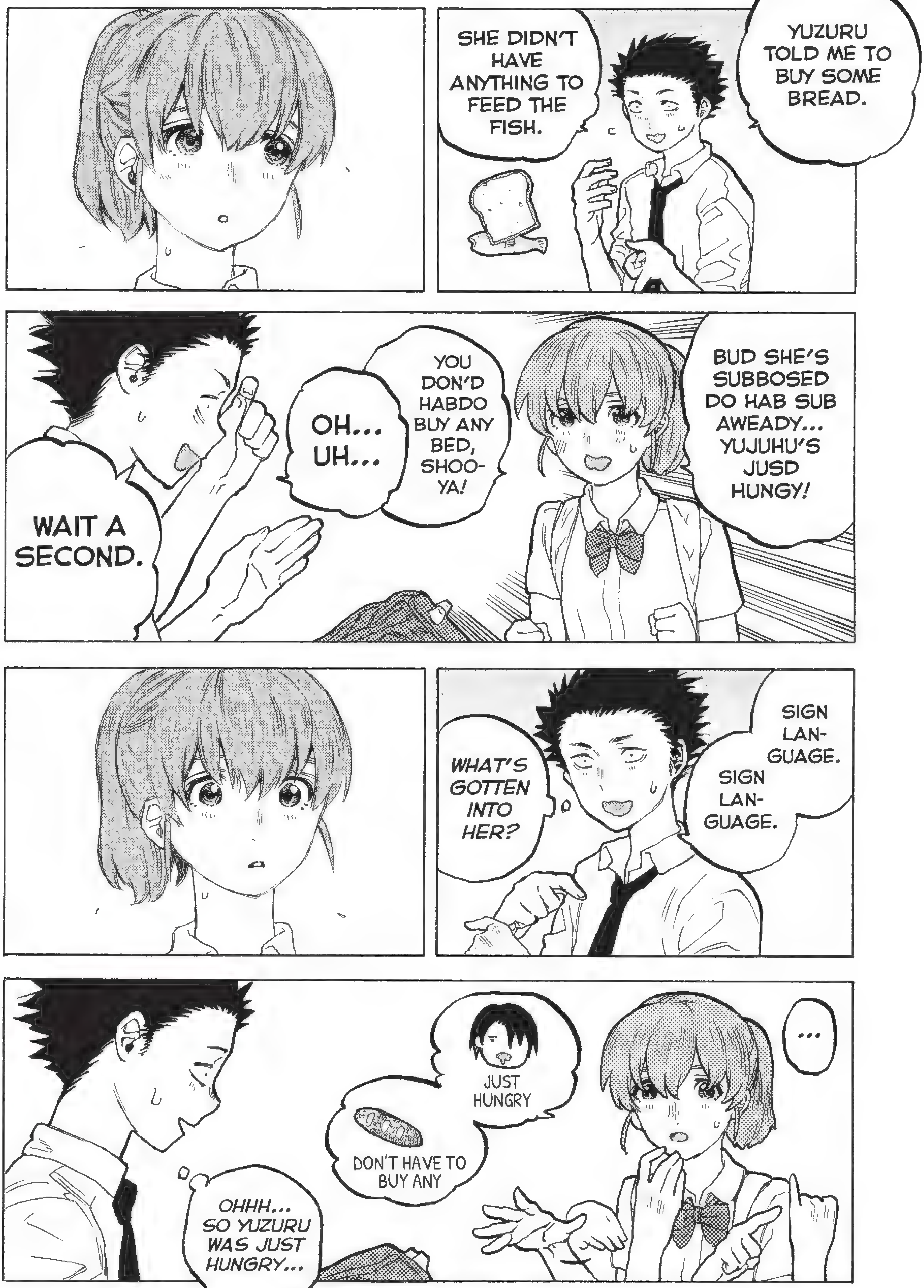

BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE "PRETEND FRIENDS" EITHER.
SO THAT NO ONE CAN CALL US "PRETEND FRIENDS" AGAIN...


...I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

But I don't want to be "pretend friends" either. So that no one can call us "pretend friends" again, I want to get to know you better.
SHOKO!
WH—
WHOA.

A PONY-TAIL!!
ペ BOW コ
OH!
HEY, WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
YOU GOING HOME?
DOES YOUR STOMACH STILL HURT?
SHE CHANGED HER HAIR...

I VEEL BEDDER NOW...
HMM? YOU'RE OKAY NOW?
NOD
WEAH YOU GOIG, SHOYA?
HUH?
OH...
WHERE AM I GOING?
NOD


YUZURU TOLD ME TO BUY SOME BREAD.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FEED THE FISH.
BUD SHE'S SUBBOSED DO HAB SUB AWEADY... YUJUHU'S JUSD HUNGY!
YOU DON'D HABDO BUY ANY BED, SHOO-YA!
OH... UH...
WAIT A SECOND.
SIGN LANGUAGE.
SIGN LANGUAGE.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
...
JUST HUNGRY
DON'T HAVE TO BUY ANY
OHHH... SO YUZURU WAS JUST HUNGRY...

...
?
...
...
"I"
"SOUND"
"WEIRD"
?

YEAH ...
OH NO, SORRY!
THAT WAS TOTALLY FINE!!
ok!
SHE'S NOT LOOKING!!
PAT

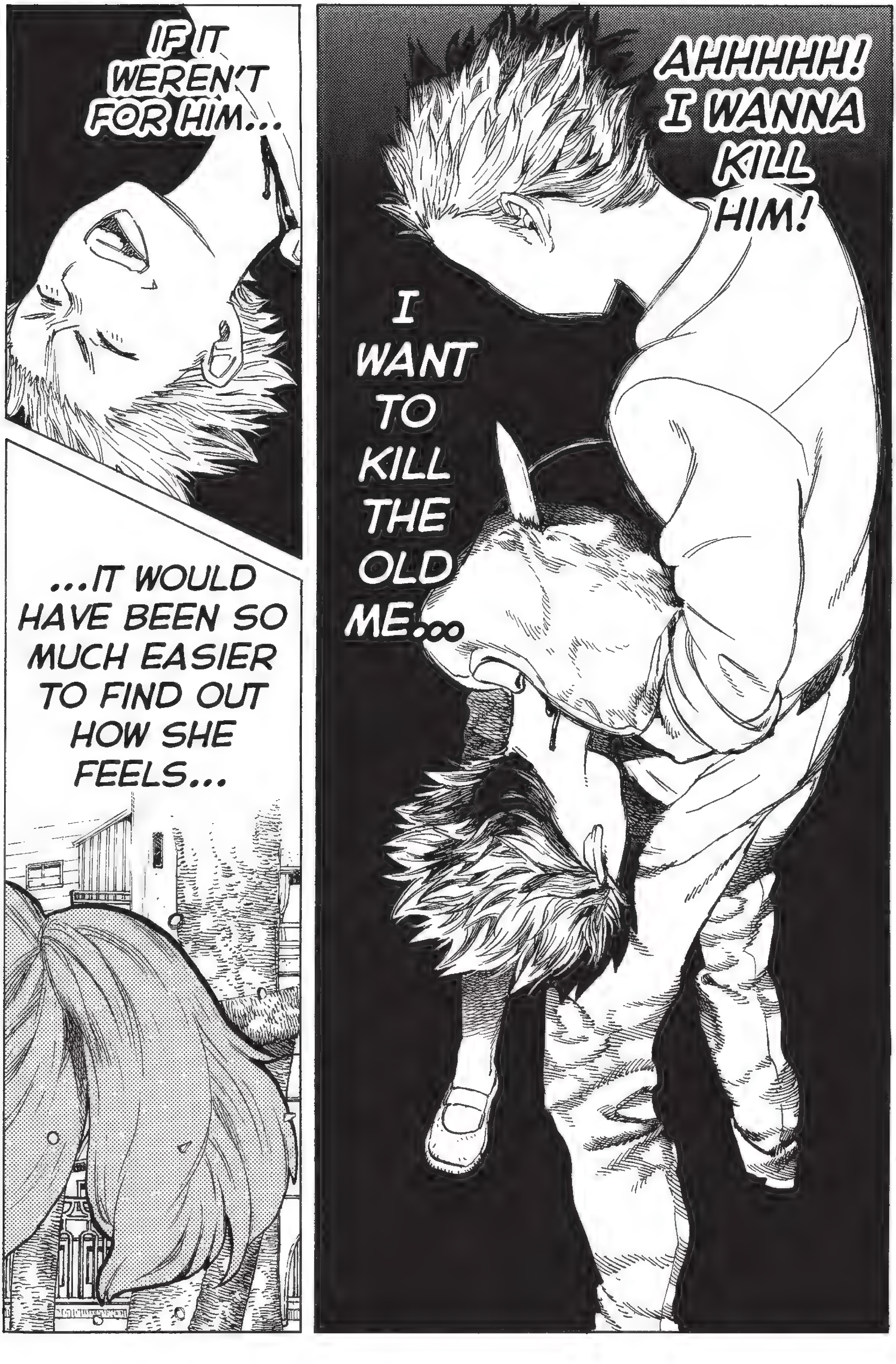
YOU'RE FINE...
JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
SHE SMILED A LITTLE!
...
...

OH... WELP.
KLUNK
I'D BETTER GET GOING.
?
...A THANK YOU GIFT?
WHAP
AW, THANKS.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
CAN I OPEN IT?
ガサ
RUSTLE

WHAT THE HECK... ARE THESE?
CANDY?
SNIFF SNIFF
OH, I GUESS NOT.
HEY, THANKS. I LIKE THESE.
BUT, REALLY, WHAT ARE THEY?
SEE YA.

...SHOKO HAS... CHANGED.
WHY?
don’
pretend fr
either. So that
one can call us
“pretend friends”
again, I want to get
to know you better.
...I DON’T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SHOKO EITHER.
UGH, AND THAT WAS A GOOD CHANCE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER, TOO.

I SHOULD HAVE ASKED ABOUT HER HAIR, OR WHY SHE SPOKE, OR ABOUT THESE THINGS SHE GAVE ME.
CHAK
AM I SCARED? AM I SCARED OF LEARNING ABOUT HER?
IF I LEARN ABOUT HER, I'LL PROBABLY...
NO, I'LL DEFINITELY ...
...THINK OF MY SIXTH GRADE SELF...
...

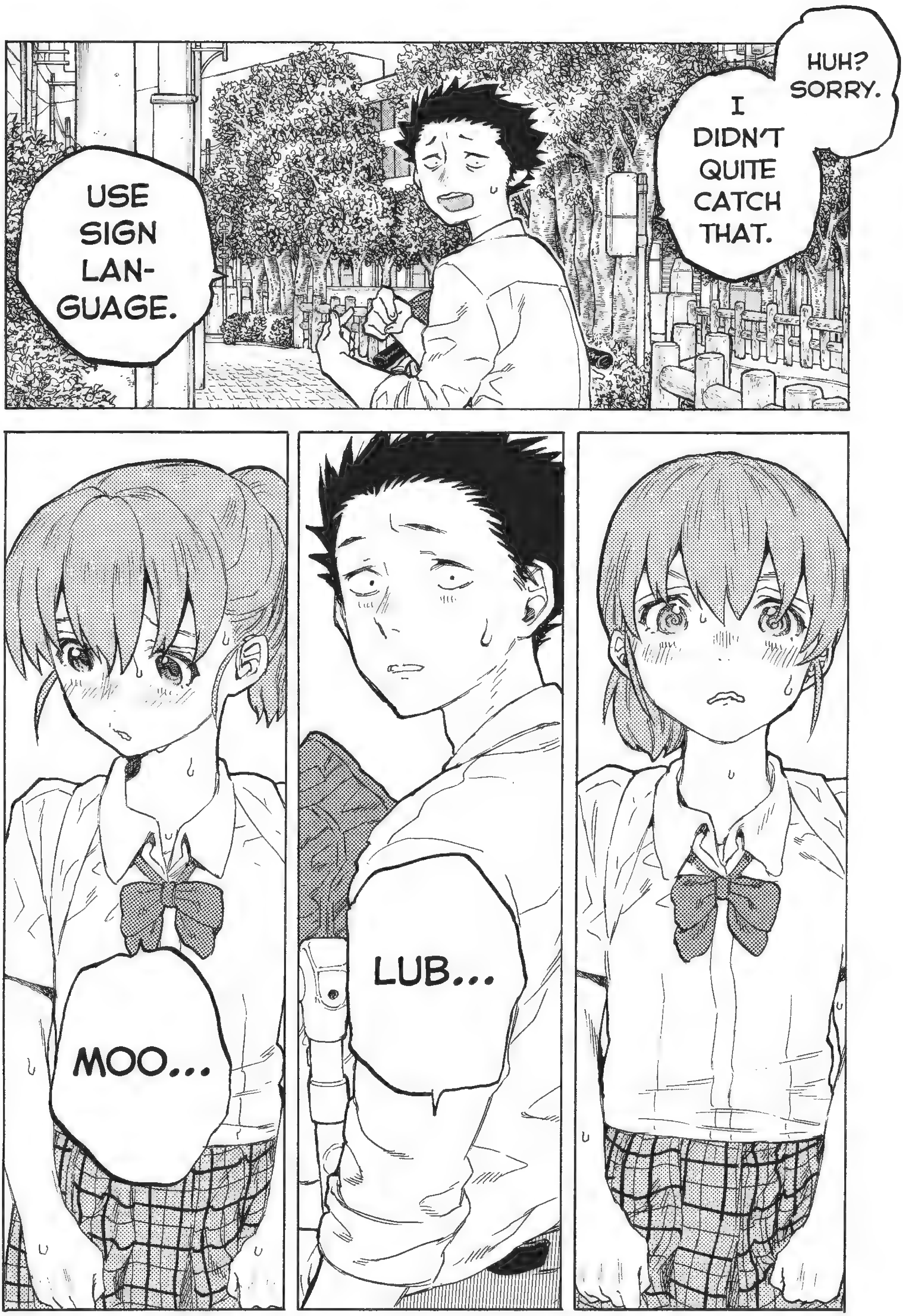

AHHHHH! I WANNA KILL HIM!
I WANT TO KILL THE OLD ME...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM...
...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER TO FIND OUT HOW SHE FEELS...

SHO !
YA!
I— !
キィィィ
SKREEEK

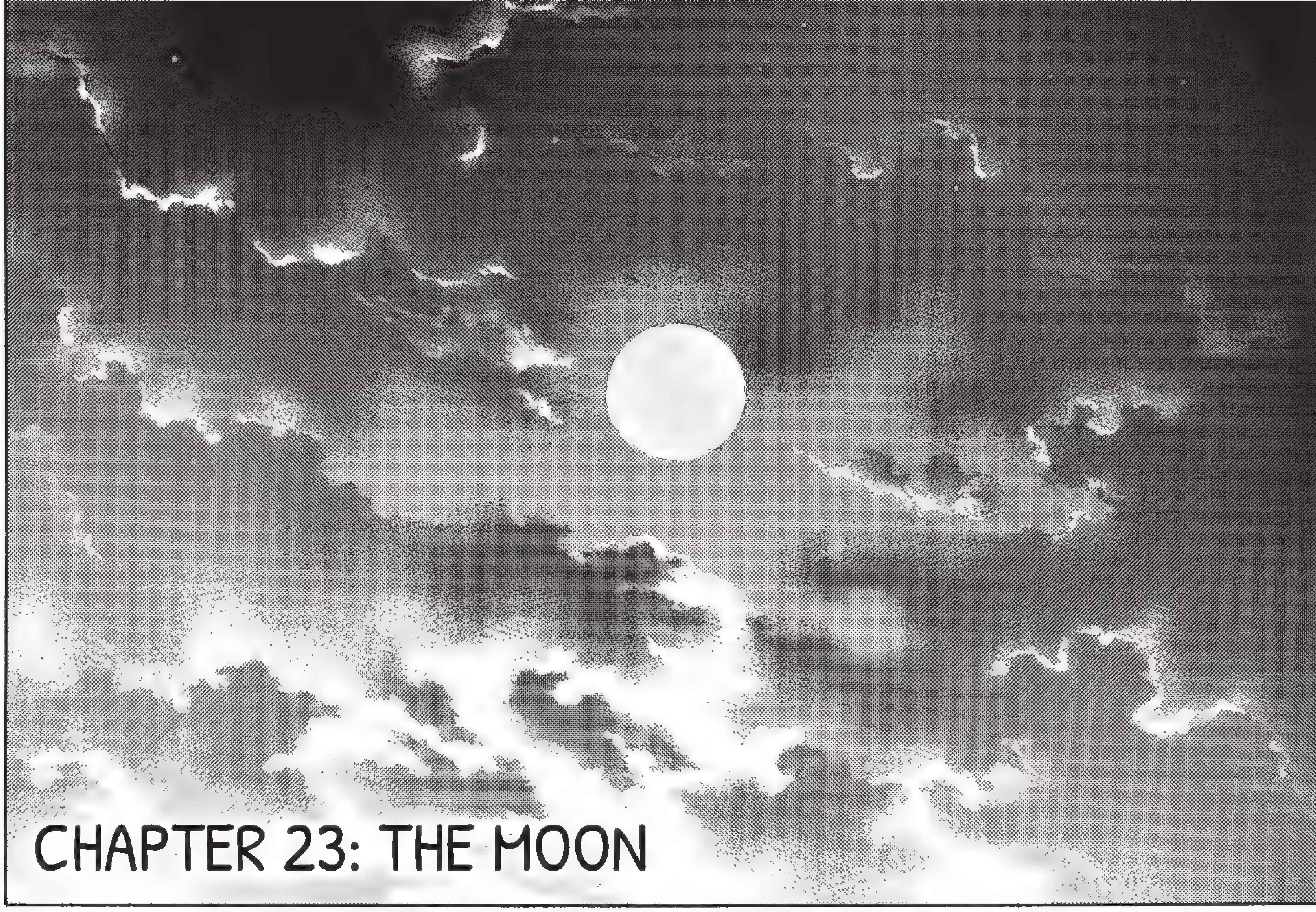
I...
LUB MOO!

ザ
SHK
HUH ?!
D-DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

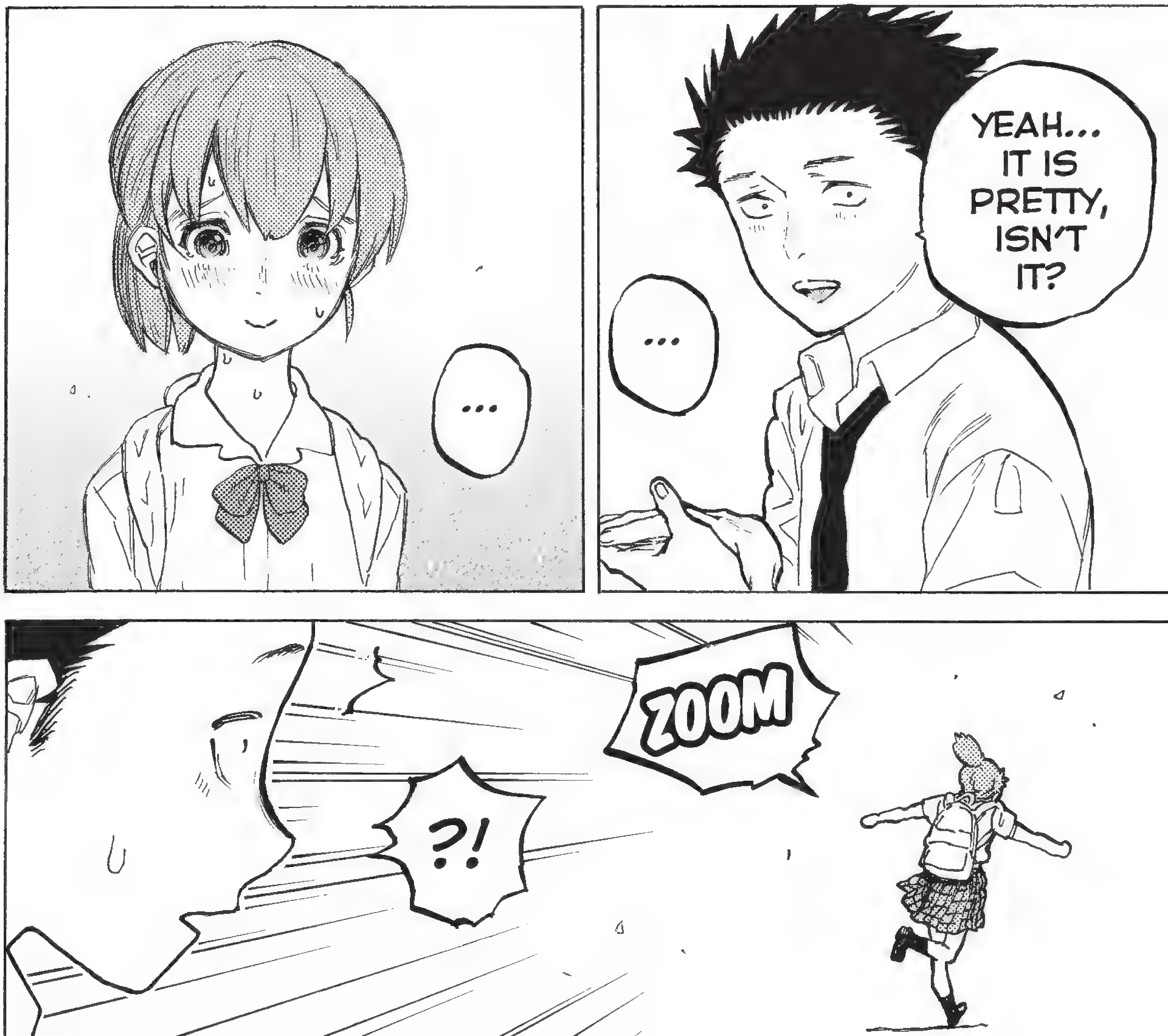
...
WHAT?
I LUB ...
MOO ...


HUH? SORRY.
I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT.
USE SIGN LANGUAGE.
LUB...
MOO...

OH.
"THE MOON"?
NOD NOD
NOD NOD
...



CHAPTER 23: THE MOON


YEAH... IT IS PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
...
...
ZOOM
?!

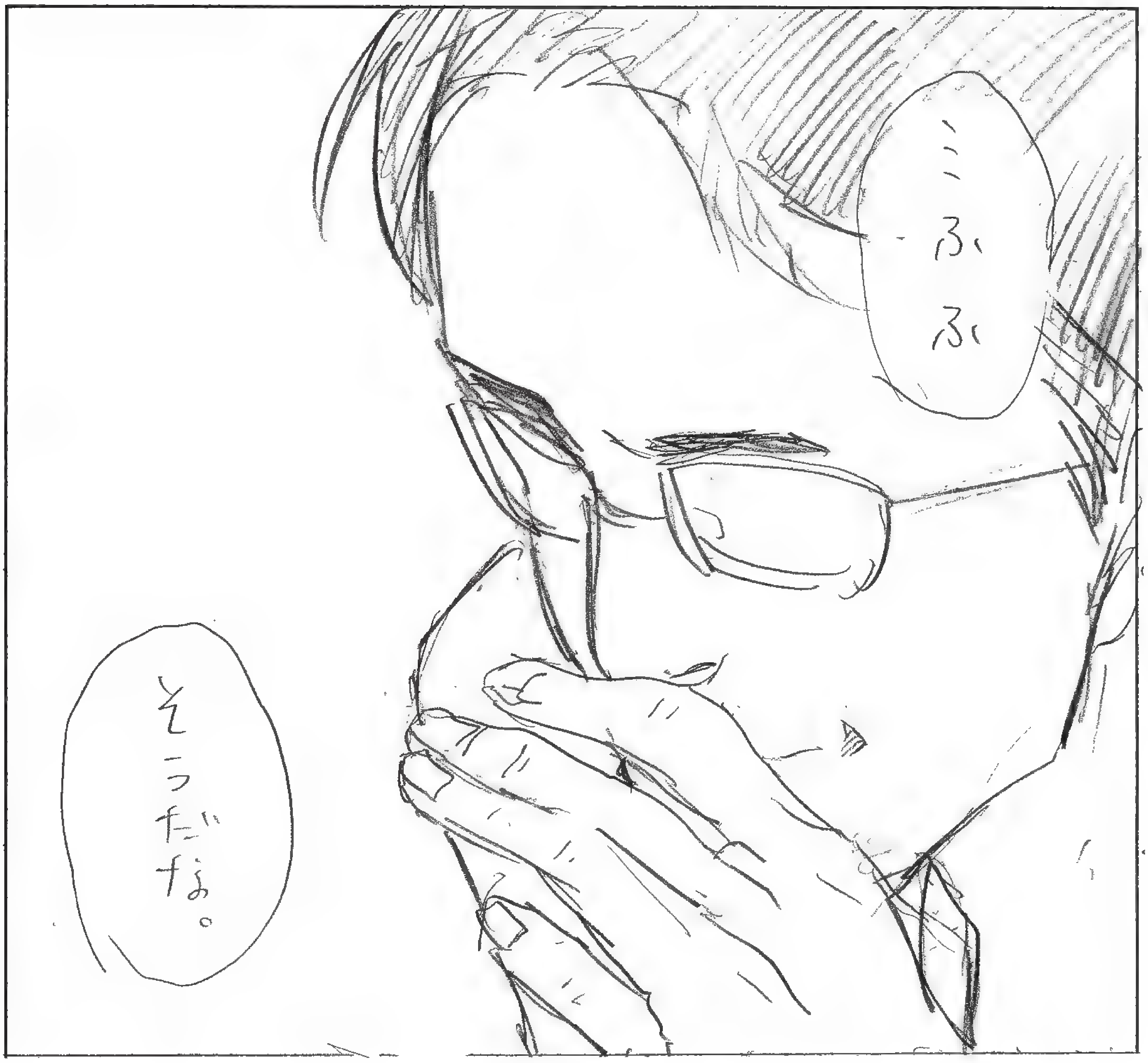
a Silent Voice

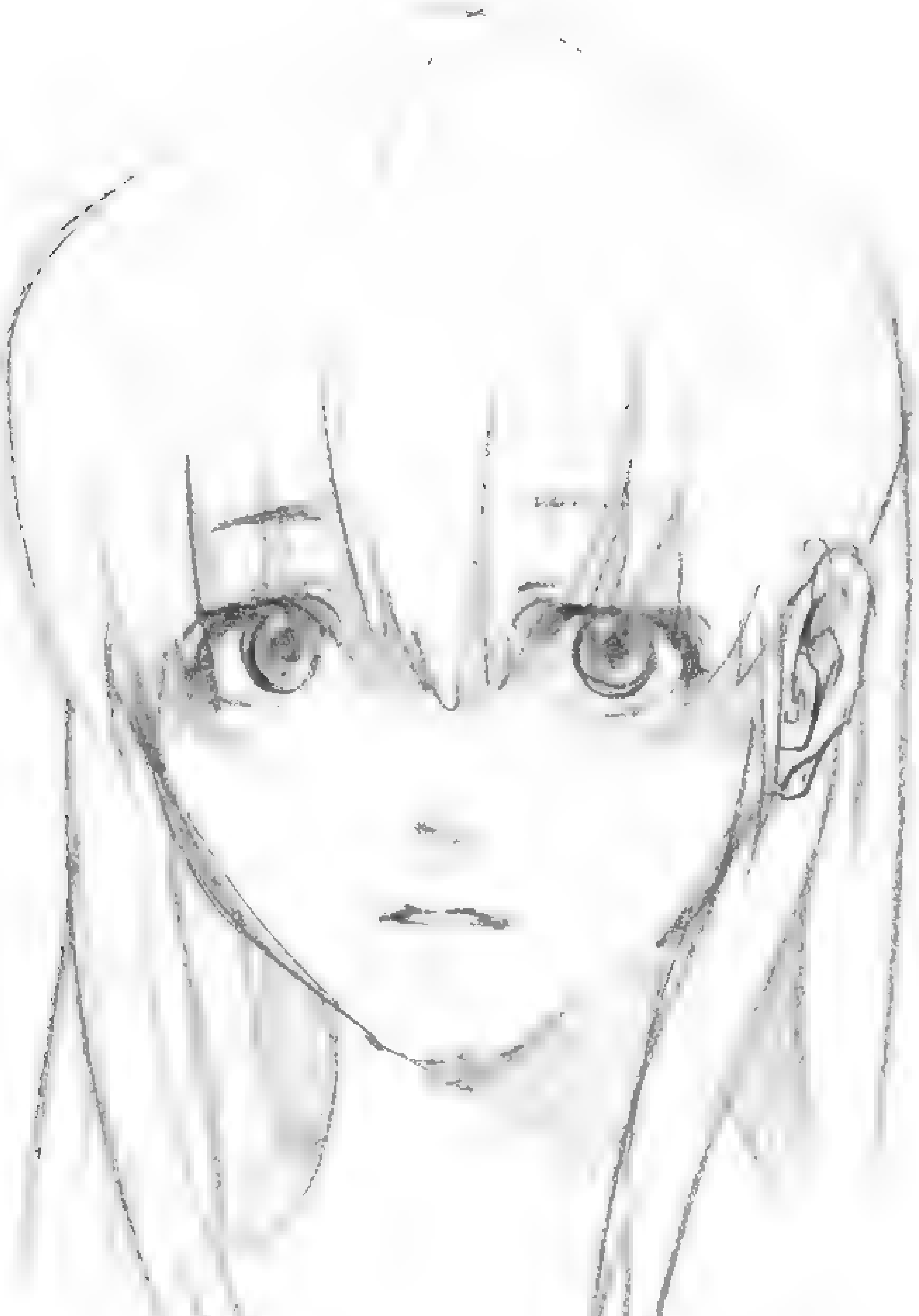
"A Silent Voice" Early Sketch Gallery

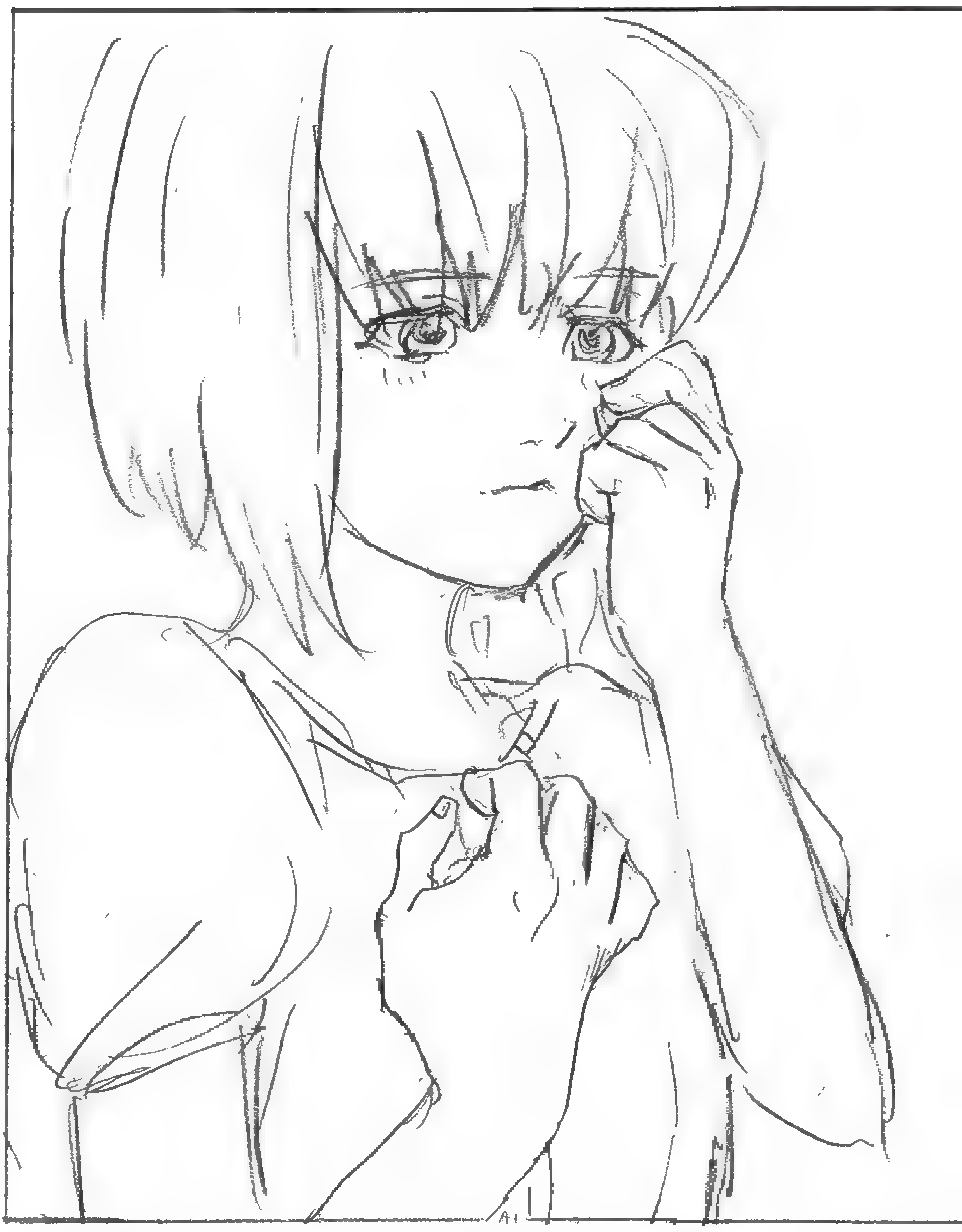
These sketches come from a first draft, before the series even had a title. They are the first drawings made for "A Silent Voice."

今日、
初めて俺は
ゆめなよ
え
よ!!

西宮!! どけっつってんだろ!!
ドカ!
ビクッ
はっ
ふりふり
し
カァ

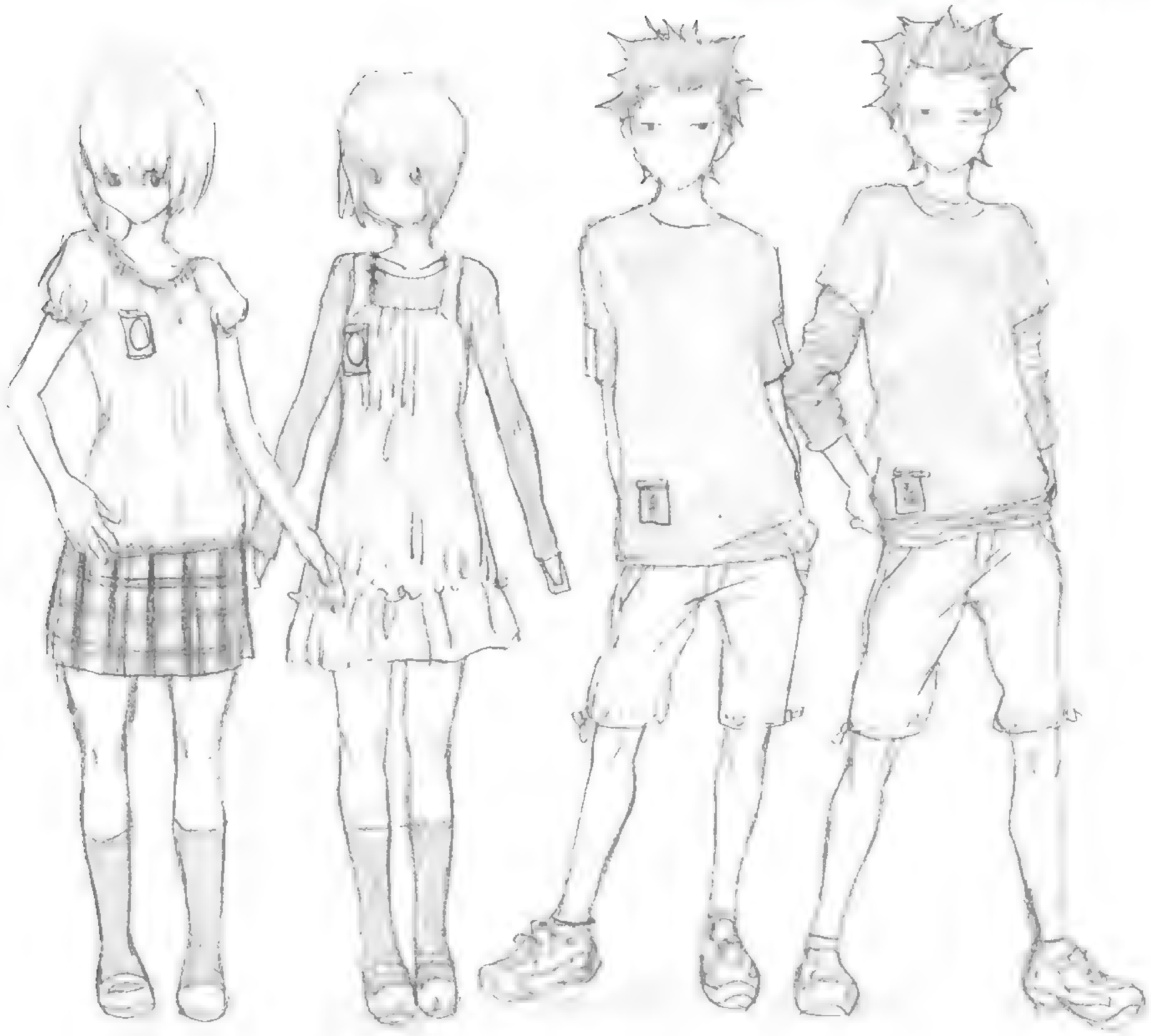

ミふふ
そうだな。

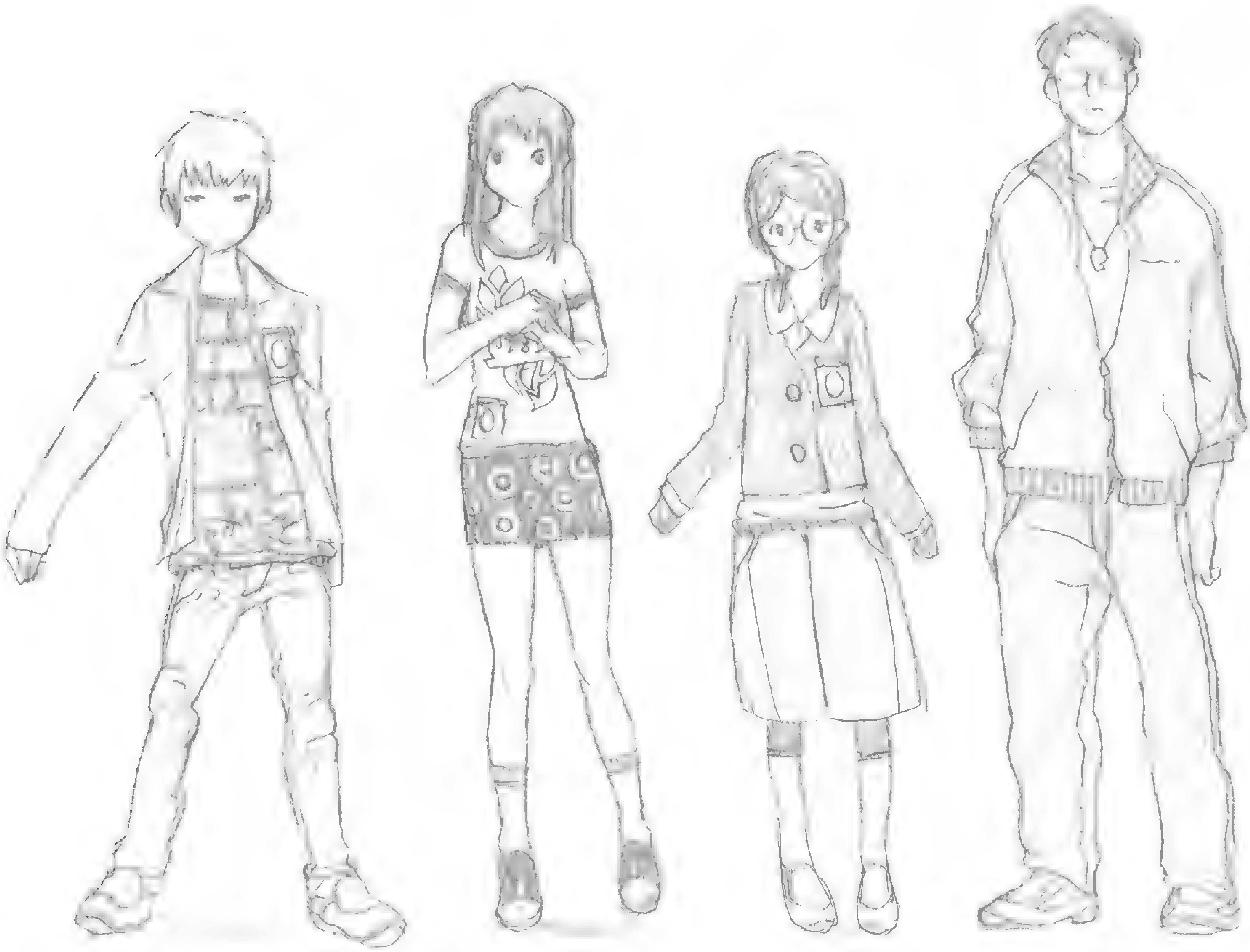


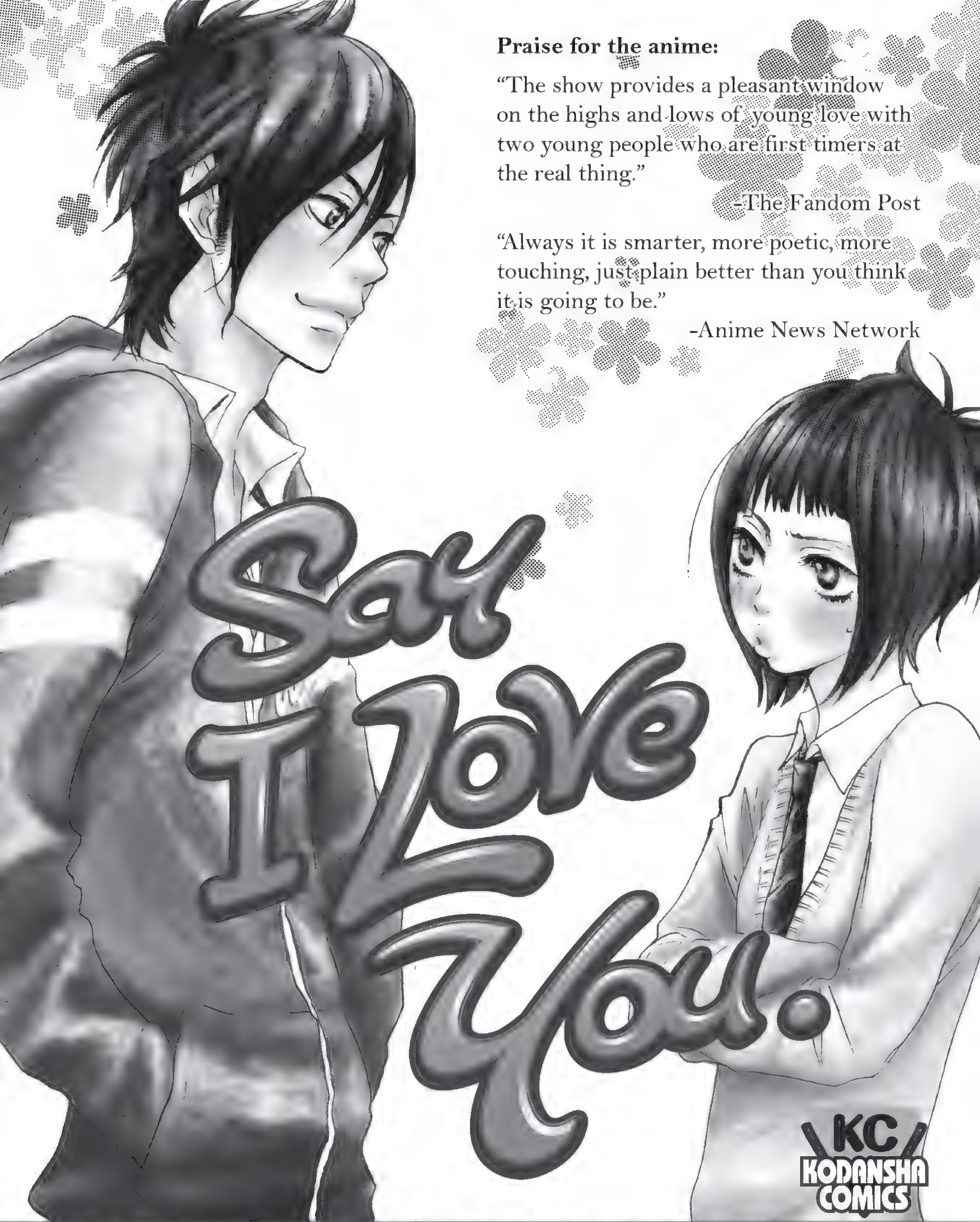


Character Model Sheets

These drawings were made as a reference for the characters' clothing.







Praise for the anime:

“The show provides a pleasant window on the highs and lows of young love with two young people who are first timers at the real thing.”

-The Fandom Post

“Always it is smarter, more poetic, more touching, just plain better than you think it is going to be.”

-Anime News Network

Mei Tachibana has no friends — and says she doesn’t need them!

But everything changes when she accidentally roundhouse kicks the most popular boy in school! However, Yamato Kurosawa isn’t angry in the slightest—in fact, he thinks his ordinary life could use an unusual girl like Mei. But winning Mei’s trust will be a tough task. How long will she refuse to say, “I love you”?

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NO.6
A PERFECT LIFE IN A PERFECT CITY
KC
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A Silent Voice volume 3

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STORY AND ART BY YOSHITOKI OIMA

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